3

shiwo komeyama

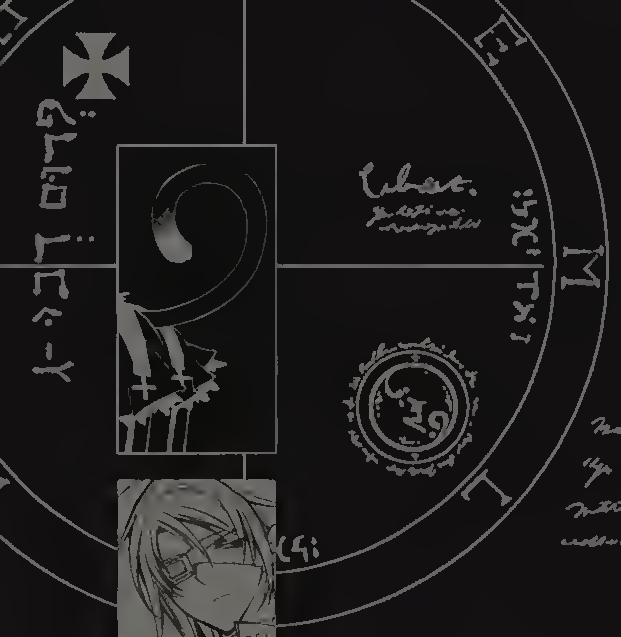
BLOODY CROSS

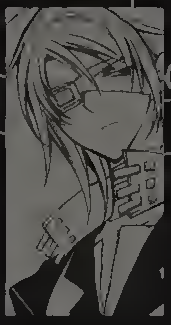
BLOODY CROSS

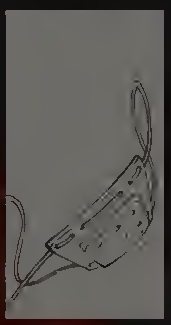
Shiwo Komeyama

3

BLOODY CROSS







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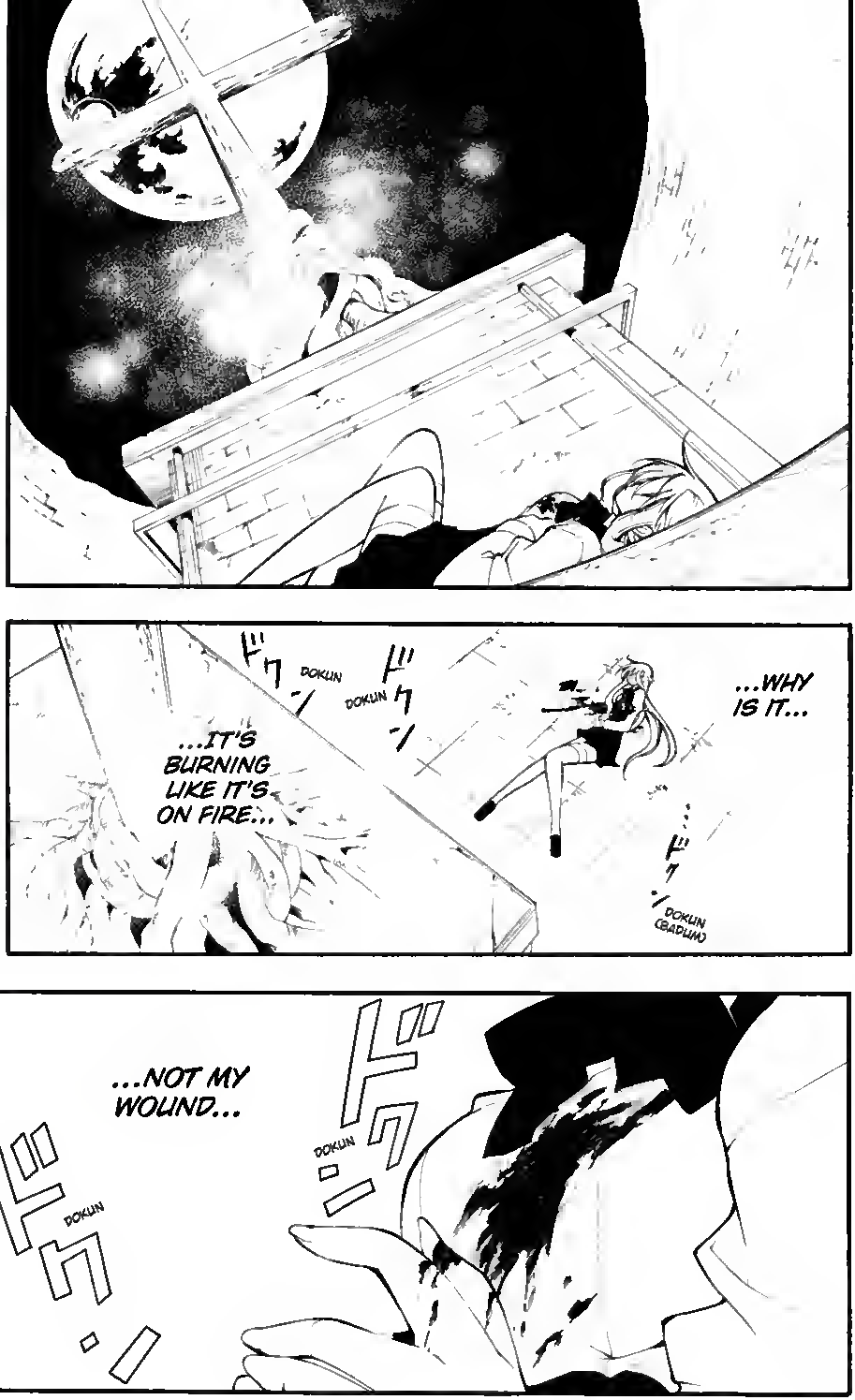
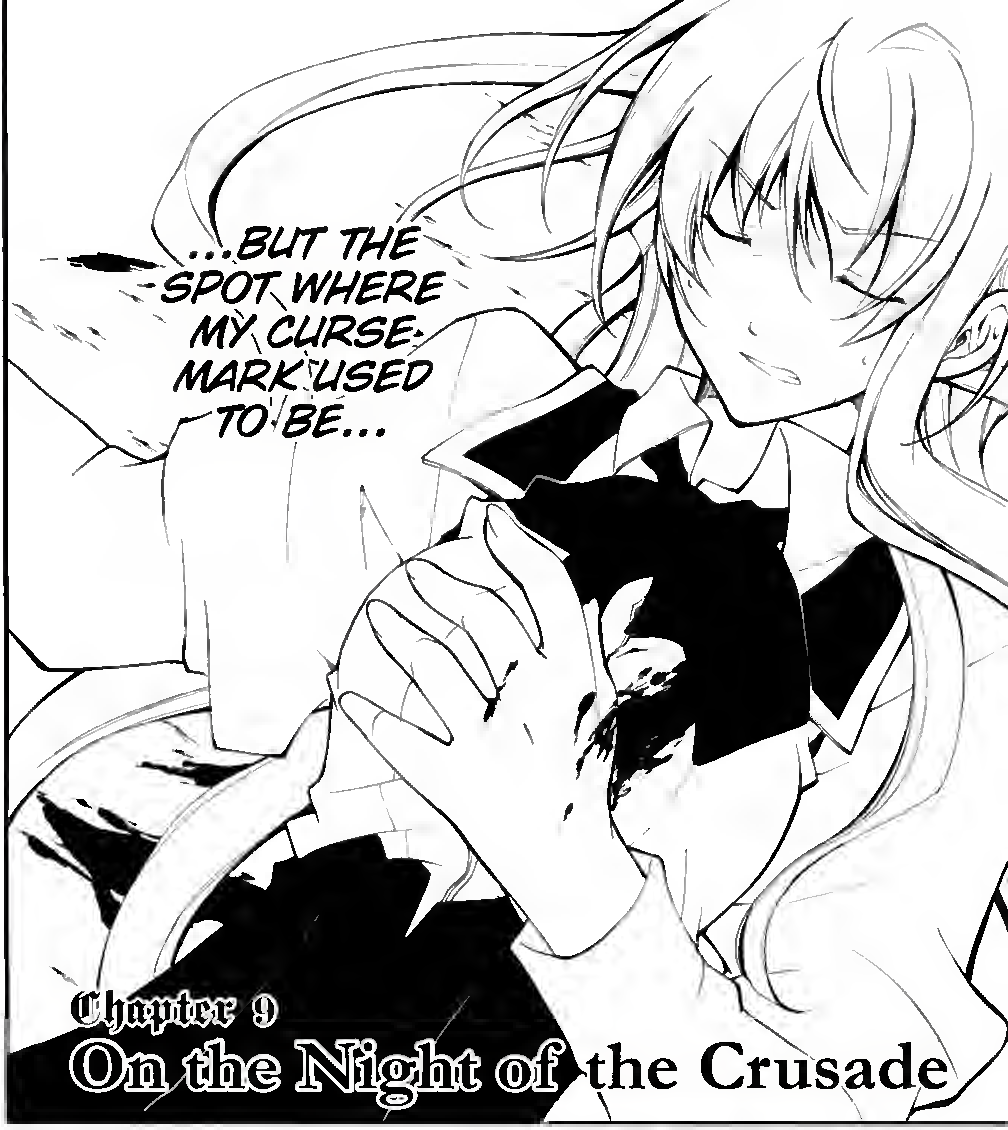
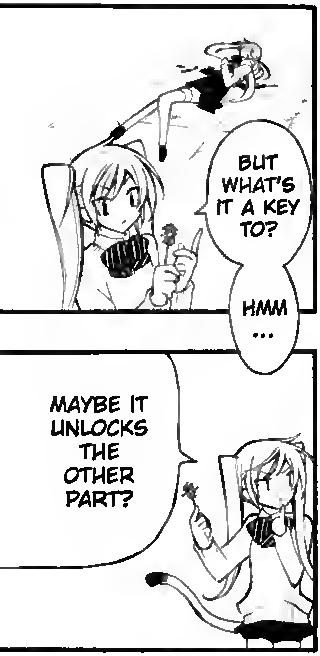
13 : False Faces 157


DOKUN
DOKUN
...IT'S BURNING LIKE IT'S ON FIRE...
...WHY IS IT...
DOKUN (BADUM)
...NOT MY WOUND...
DOKUN
DOKUN

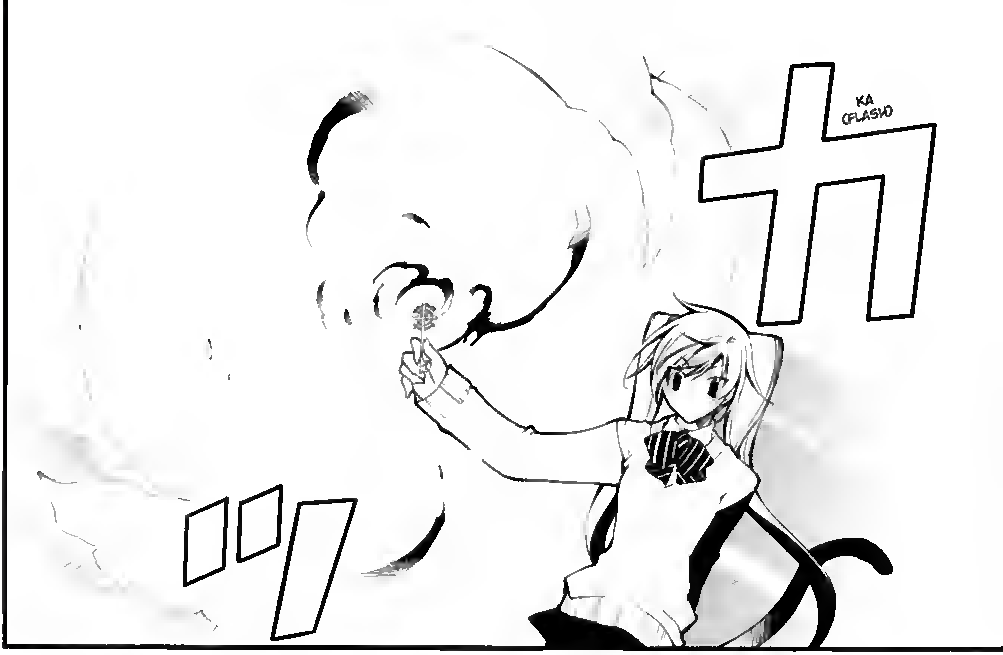


Chapter 9
On the Night of the Crusade

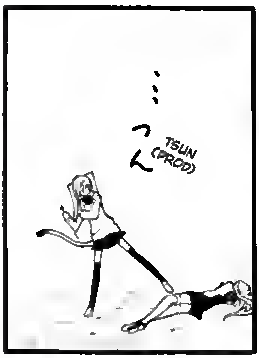
ZU-NU
CRWOOM
ズ
ズ
ZU-NU
CRWOOM
ズ
ズ
ズ
ズ
ズ
...IS ALLLLL MOMOSE'S!

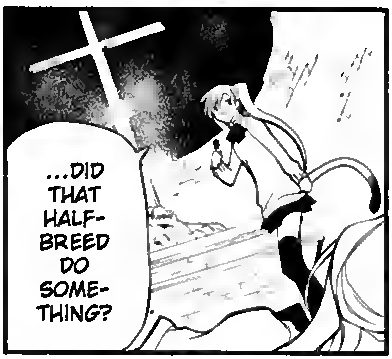

BUT WHAT'S IT A KEY TO?
HMM...
MAYBE IT UNLOCKS THE OTHER PART?

SO ONE OF THE RELICS...
...IS A KEY, HUH.

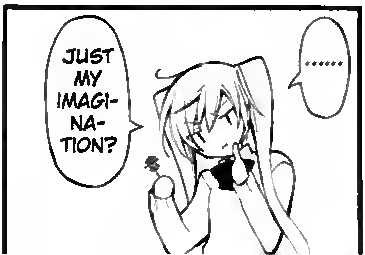

KA
(FLASH)

HUH?


TSUN
(PROD)

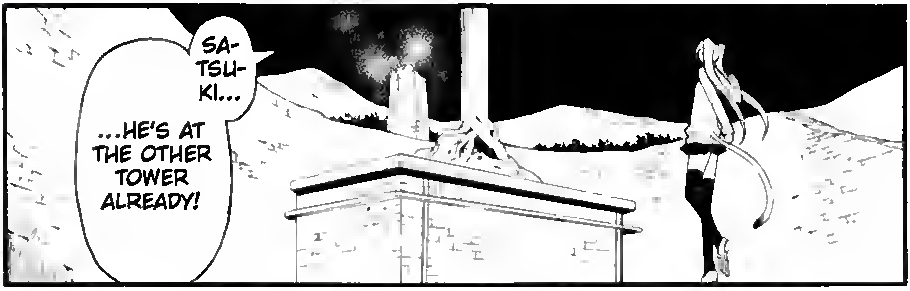

...DID THAT HALF-BREED DO SOME-THING?

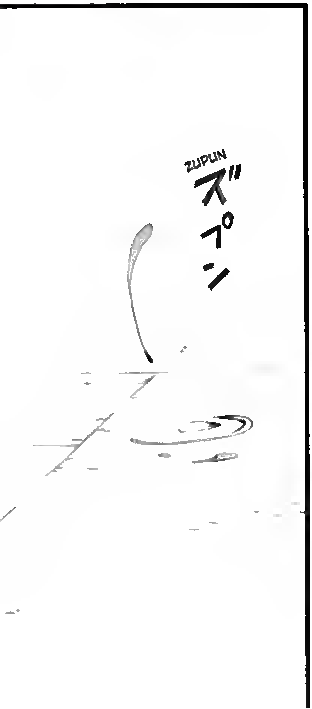
DID IT...
...JUST FLASH FOR A SECOND?


JUST MY IMAGI-NA-TION?
.....

I LOVE YOU ALMOST TO DEATH!
GOOD GIRL!
IS HE GONNA PRAISE MOMOSE?
OHH! SA-TSUKI'S GONNA REWARD MOMOSE!

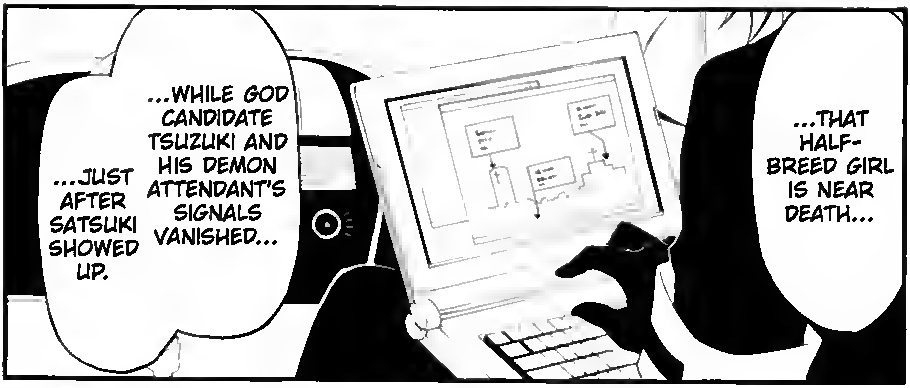
ぽ
PON (POMPF)
OH!
FORGET THAT! MOMOSE'S GOTTA GET THE RELIC TO SATSUKI!

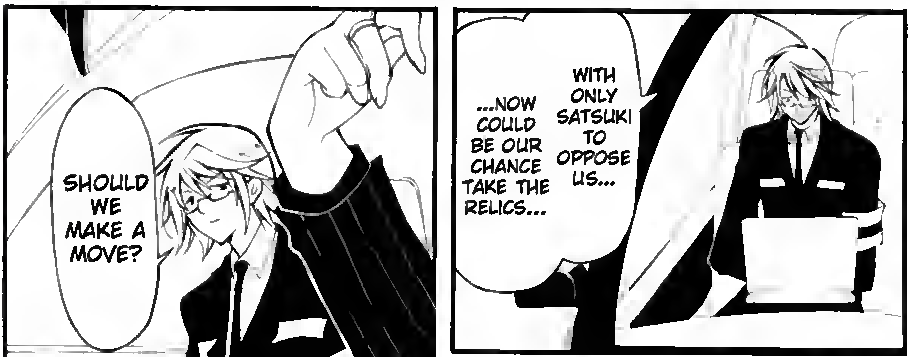

SA-TSU-KI...
...HE'S AT THE OTHER TOWER ALREADY!


ZUPUN
ズプン

ZUPU
ズプ
ZUPU
ズプ!!

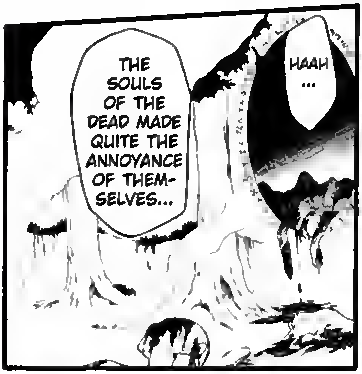
MOMOSE WILL BE RIGHT THERE!
ZUPU (SLRP)
ズプ

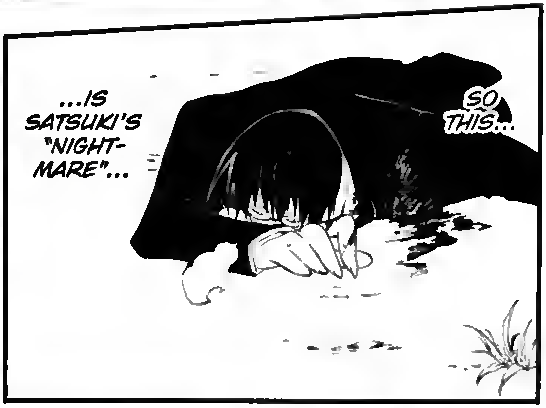

...THAT HALF-BREED GIRL IS NEAR DEATH...
...WHILE GOD CANDIDATE TSUZUKI AND HIS DEMON ATTENDANT'S SIGNALS VANISHED...
...JUST AFTER SATSUKI SHOWED UP.


...NOW COULD BE OUR CHANCE TAKE THE RELICS...
WITH ONLY SATSUKI TO OPPOSE US...
SHOULD WE MAKE A MOVE?

—HM...
I WONDER...
ZAZA (SKID)
HA HA (PANT)

SUU (SHHH)
DOSA (THUMP)


HAAH...
THE SOULS OF THE DEAD MADE QUITE THE ANNOYANCE OF THEMSELVES...

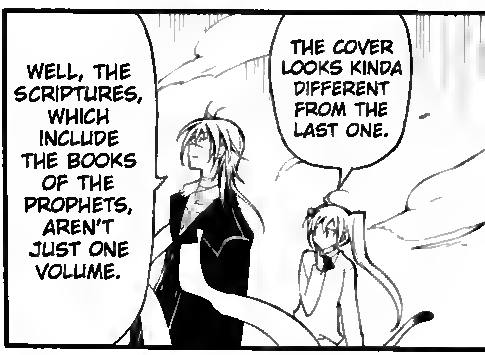

SO THIS...
...IS SATSUKI'S "NIGHTMARE"...

TSUZUKI'S GONE AHEAD, HAS HE?
I'M GLAD.

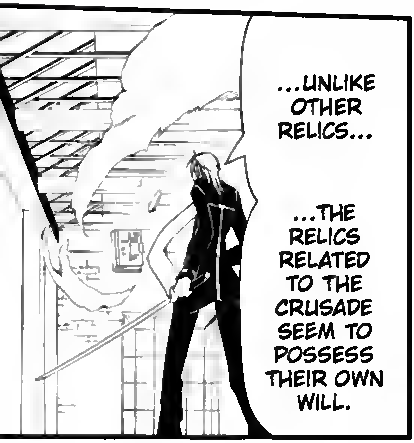
HE NEEDS TO END THIS FIGHT AGAINST SATSUKI...
...BEFORE HIS "LUCK" TURNS.

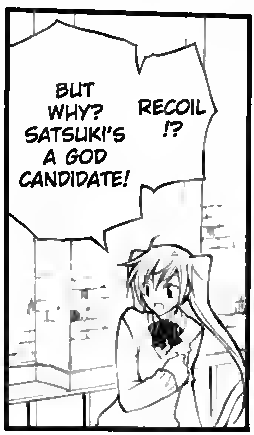
THE OTHER PIECE OF THE SECOND RELIC...
...IS ANOTHER PROPH-ECY BOOK, I SEE.
11

NOW, THEN ...
COME INTO MY POSSESSION...
...SECOND OF GOD'S BOOKS.


WELL, THE SCRIPTURES, WHICH INCLUDE THE BOOKS OF THE PROPHETS, AREN'T JUST ONE VOLUME.
THE COVER LOOKS KINDA DIFFERENT FROM THE LAST ONE.

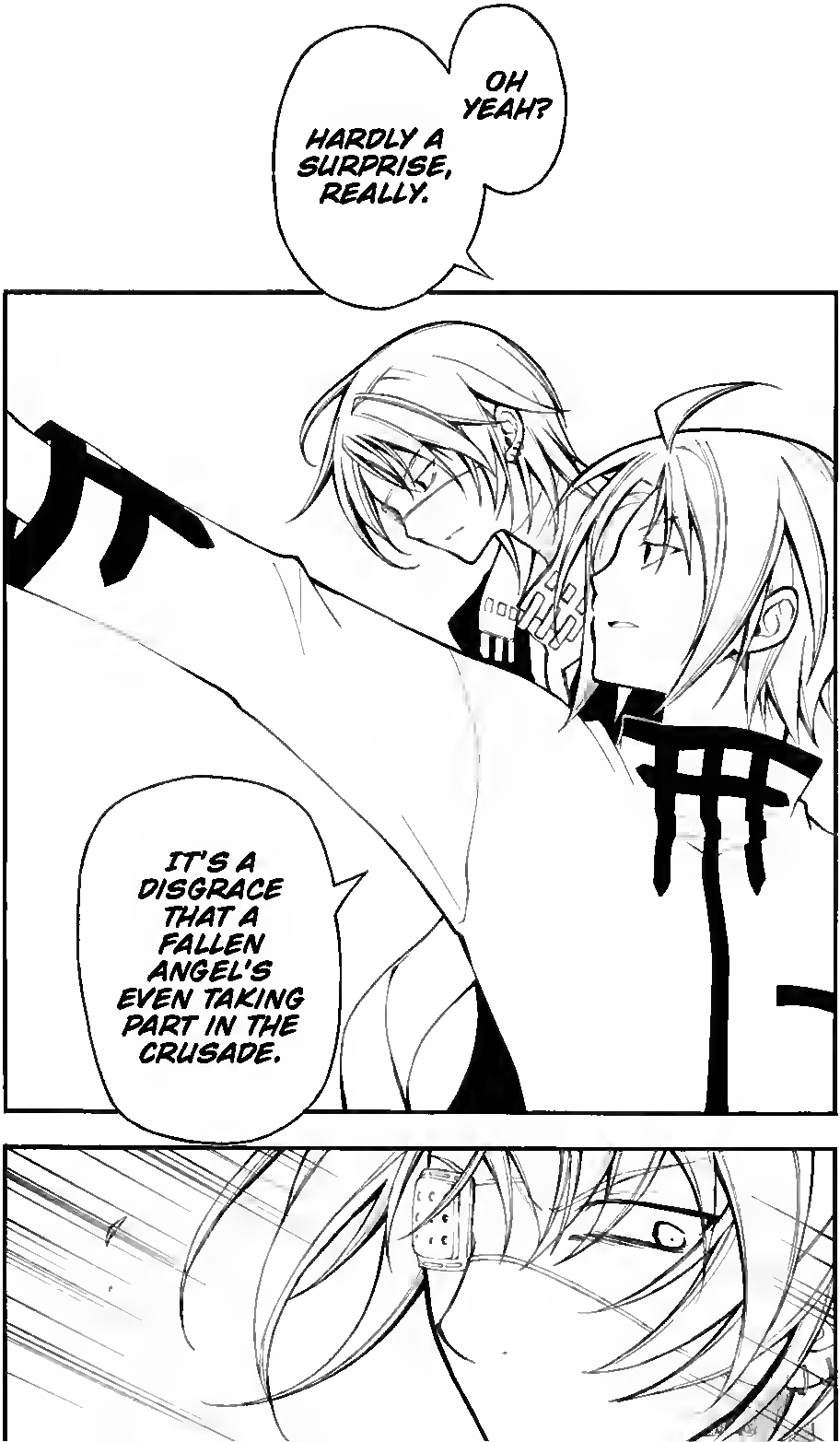
BO (FWOOMH)
ボッッ


...UNLIKE OTHER RELICS...
...THE RELICS RELATED TO THE CRUSADE SEEM TO POSSESS THEIR OWN WILL.

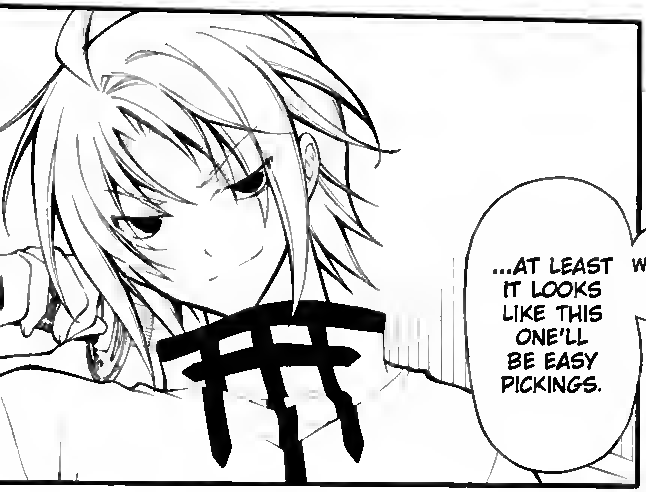

BUT WHY? SATSUKI'S A GOD CANDIDATE!
RECOIL !?

BA (FWP)
NH!

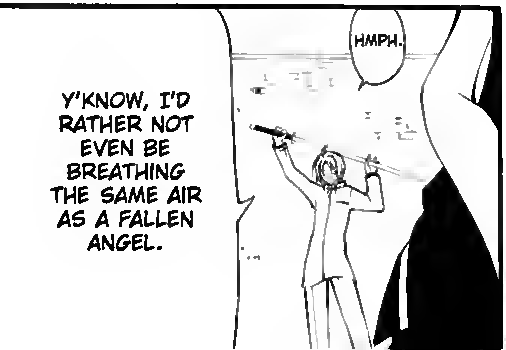
SINCE THE FIRST RELICS ARE IN TSUZUKI'S POSSES-SION...
BIRI (FZZT)
BIRI
...IT PROBABLY RECOGNIZES HIM AS ITS MASTER.


OH YEAH?
HARDLY A SURPRISE, REALLY.
IT'S A DISGRACE THAT A FALLEN ANGEL'S EVEN TAKING PART IN THE CRUSADE.

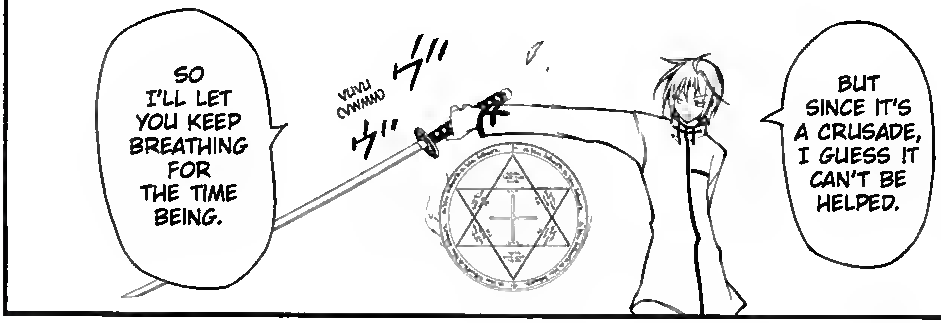
BYU (SLASH)

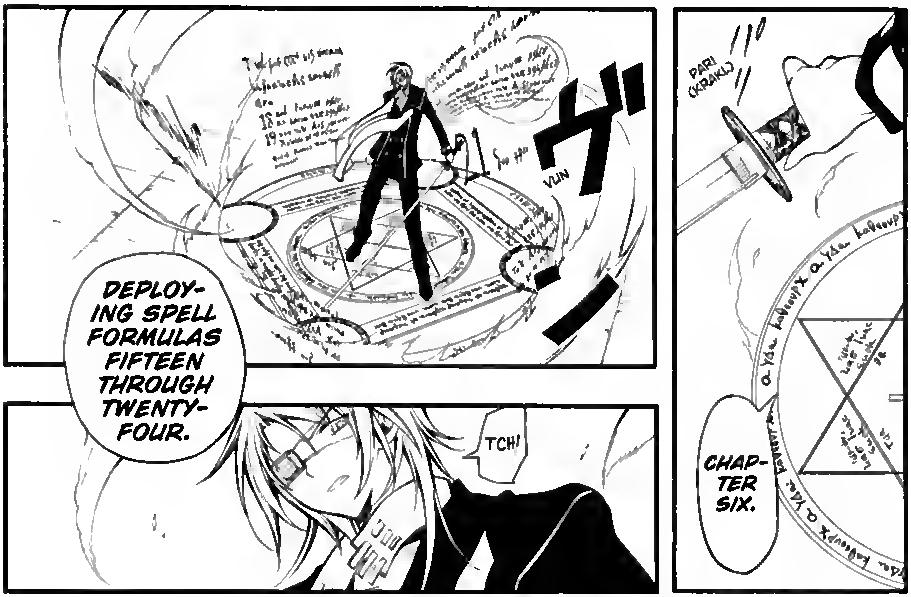

...AT LEAST IT LOOKS LIKE THIS ONE'LL BE EASY PICKINGS.
WELL ...
TON (THD)

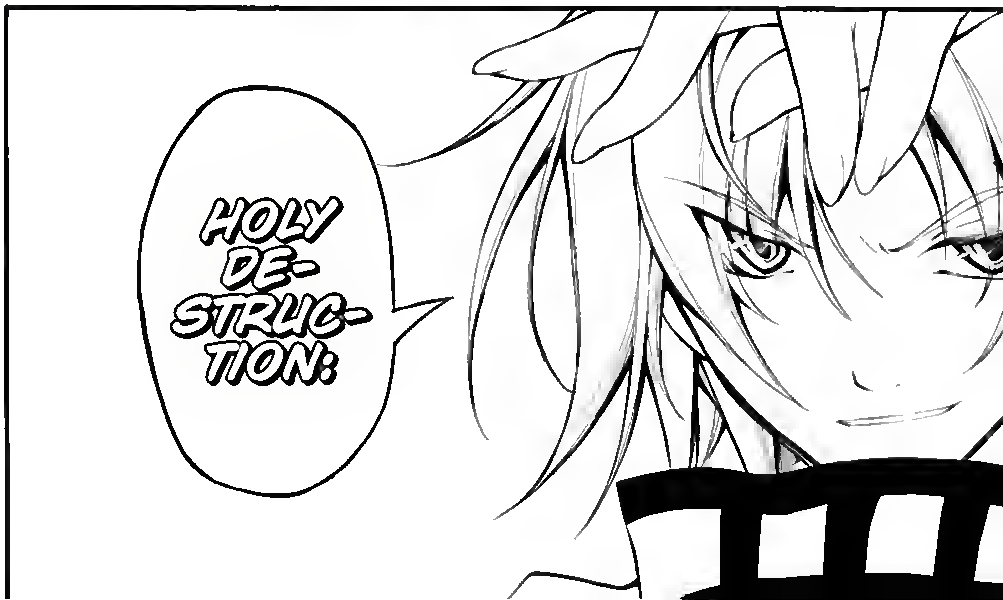
I'LL PROTECT THE KEY.
RIGHT.
SUU (SHHD)
MO-MOSE.

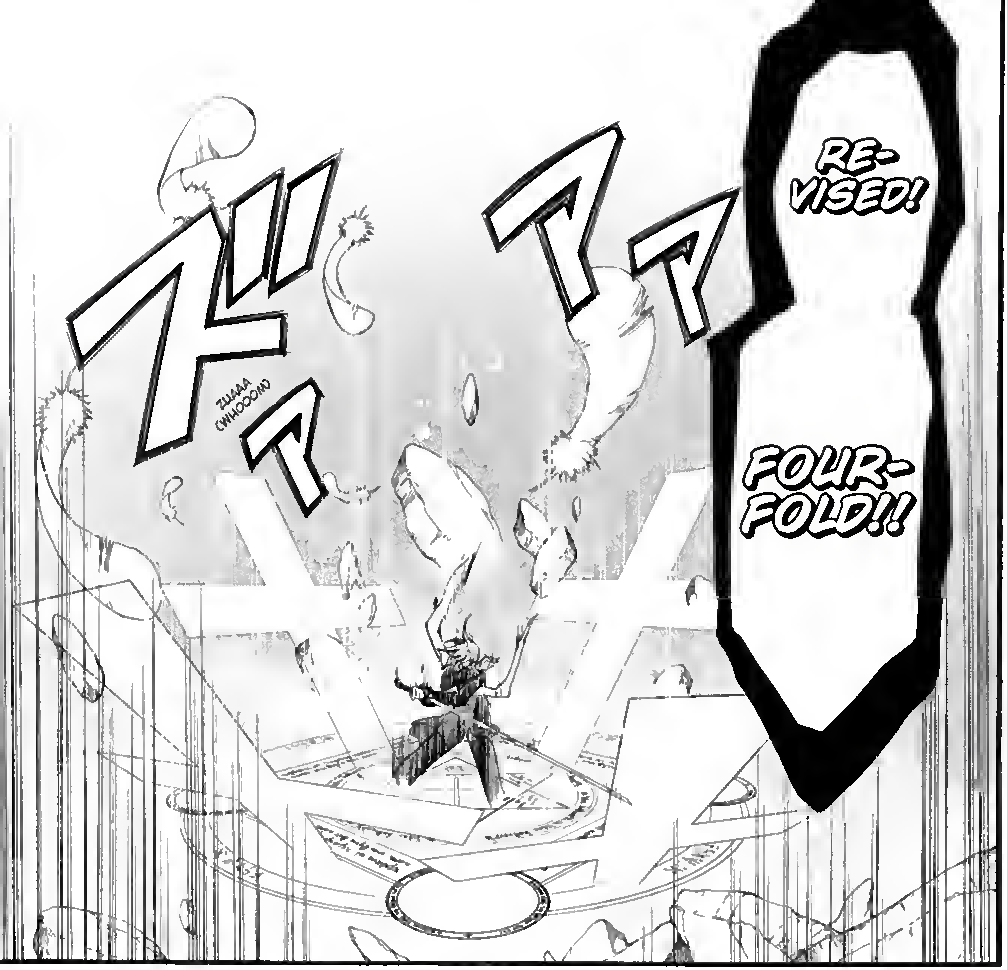

Y'KNOW, I'D RATHER NOT EVEN BE BREATHING THE SAME AIR AS A FALLEN ANGEL.
HMPH.

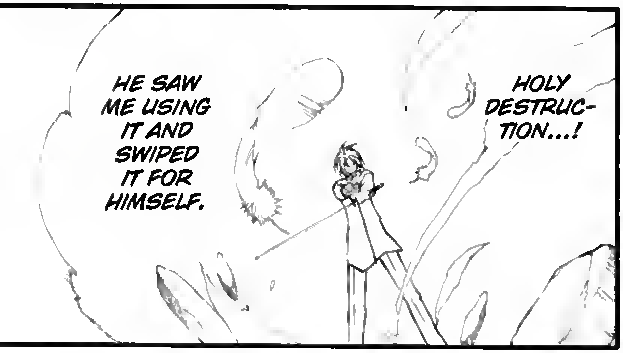
I SHOULD'VE CHOSEN A MORE CHAL-LENGING OBSTACLE FOR YOU.
YOU ESCAPED THE NIGHT-MARE ALREADY?
THAT WAS FAST.

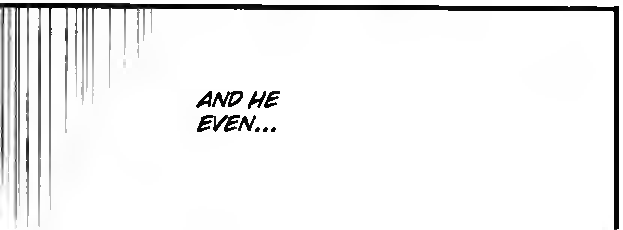

SO I'LL LET YOU KEEP BREATHING FOR THE TIME BEING.
YUUU (WWWW)
BUT SINCE IT'S A CRUSADE, I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED.


ゲン
YUN
DEPLOY-ING SPELL FORMULAS FIFTEEN THROUGH TWENTY-FOUR.
TCH!
PARI (KRAK!)
CHAP-TER SIX.

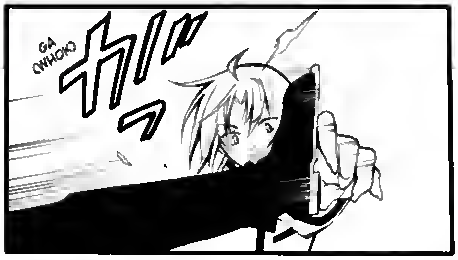

HOLY DE-STRUC-TION:

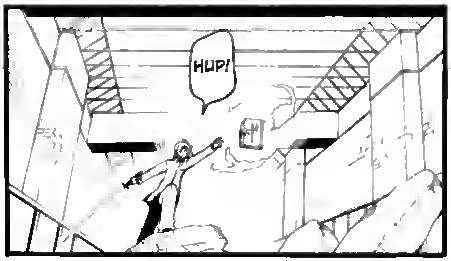

ZUAAA (WHOOOSH)
RE-VISED!
FOUR-FOLD!!

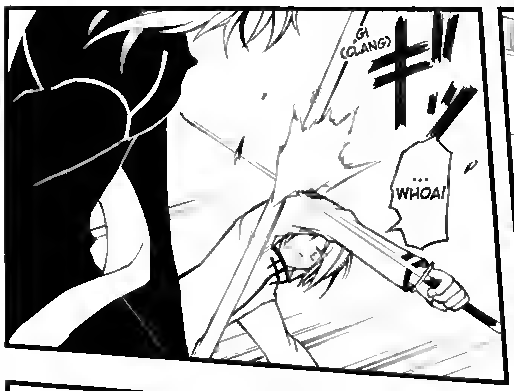

HE SAW ME USING IT AND SWIPED IT FOR HIMSELF.
HOLY DESTRUC-TION...!


AND HE EVEN...

YOU ALTERED IT?
INTER-ESTING!


GA (WHACK)


HUP!


GI (CLANG)
...WHOA!

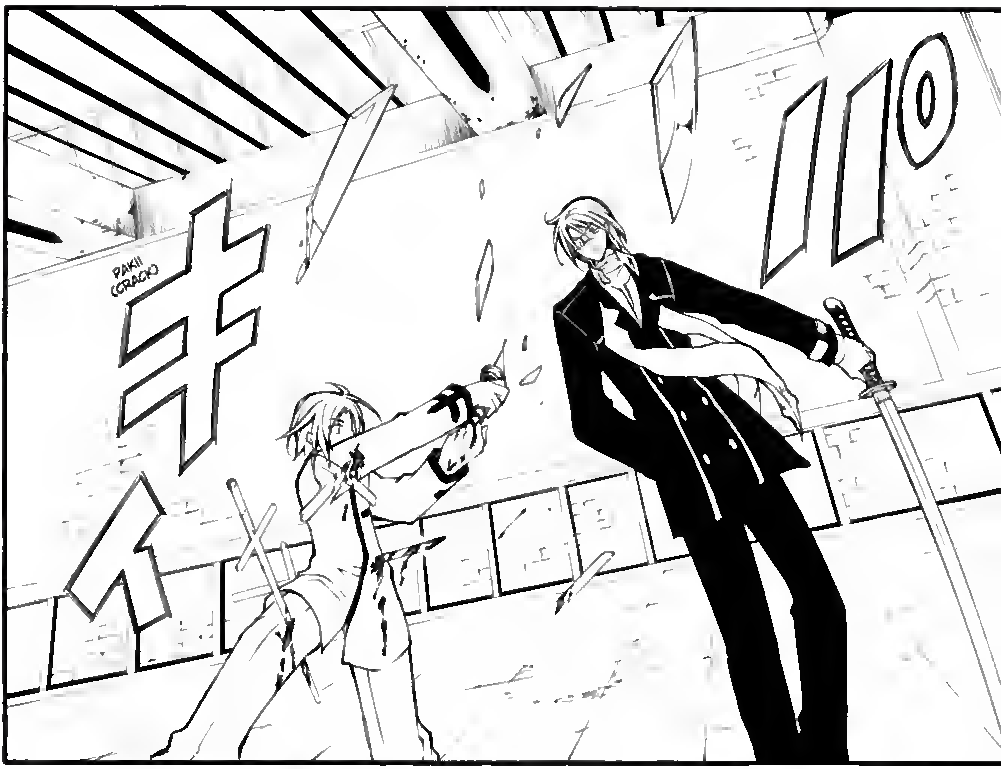
BYU (WHAP)

GO (SCOOP)

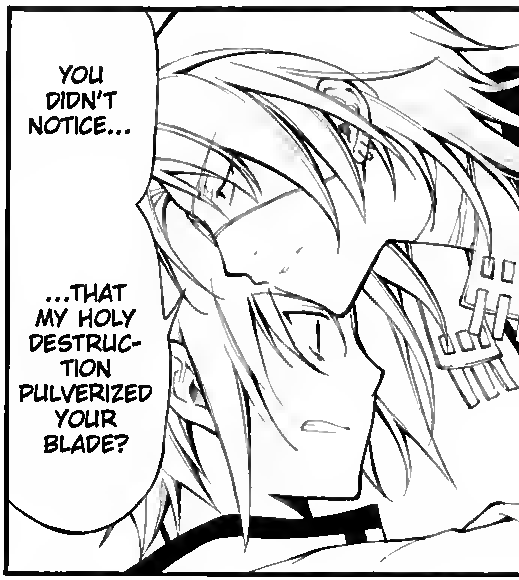
DEPLOYING SPELL FORMULAS FIFTEEN THROUGH TWENTY-FOUR.
PAPI CRACKLED
CHAPTER SIX.
...PLUS...
...FORCED INSER-TION OF CHAPTER TWELVE, VERSE ONE.
HOLY DESTRUC-TION: FRENZY!

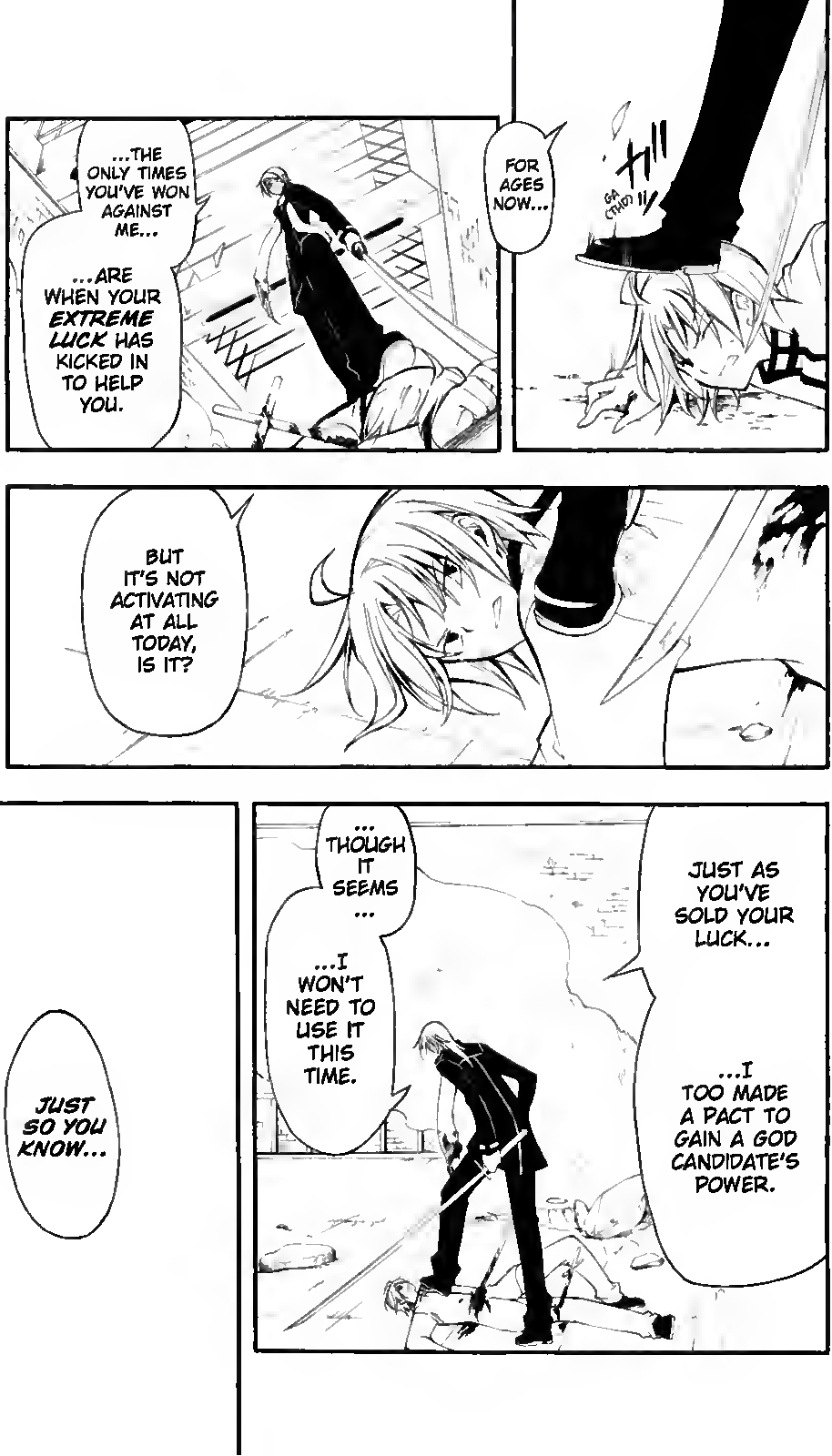
FOUR X FOUR-FOLD!
DO
DO (THUK)
GAH ...!
GIRL (GRIT)
... NH!
I TOLD YOU...
GUGU (CLENCH)
...IMPRO-VISING THEIR OWN TWISTED ALTERA-TIONS...
...FALLEN ANGELS HAVE NO BUSI-NESS...

BUSHI (SLASH)
...OF OUR POWER !!
GA OKRAK
DIE...
...FALLEN ANGEL!

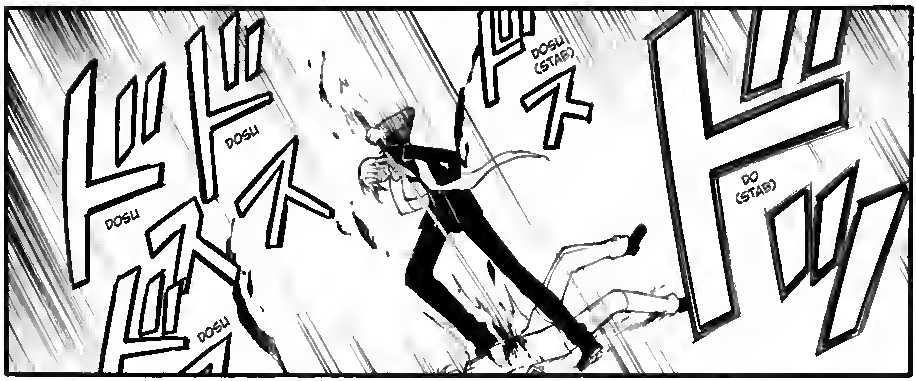

PAKI
(CRACK)

DO
(WHAT)

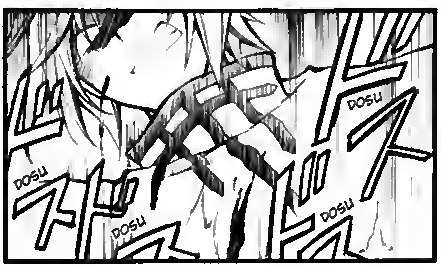

YOU DIDN'T NOTICE...
...THAT MY HOLY DESTRUC-TION PULVERIZED YOUR BLADE?


...THE ONLY TIMES YOU'VE WON AGAINST ME...
...ARE WHEN YOUR EXTREME LUCK HAS KICKED IN TO HELP YOU.
FOR AGES NOW...
GA (THUD)
BUT IT'S NOT ACTIVATING AT ALL TODAY, IS IT?
JUST AS YOU'VE SOLD YOUR LUCK...
...I TOO MADE A PACT TO GAIN A GOD CANDIDATE'S POWER.
... THOUGH IT SEEMS ...
...I WON'T NEED TO USE IT THIS TIME.
JUST SO YOU KNOW...

...WHAT I SOLD...
...WAS MY "SANITY."


DOSU (STAB)
DOSU
DOSU
DOSU
DO (STAB)

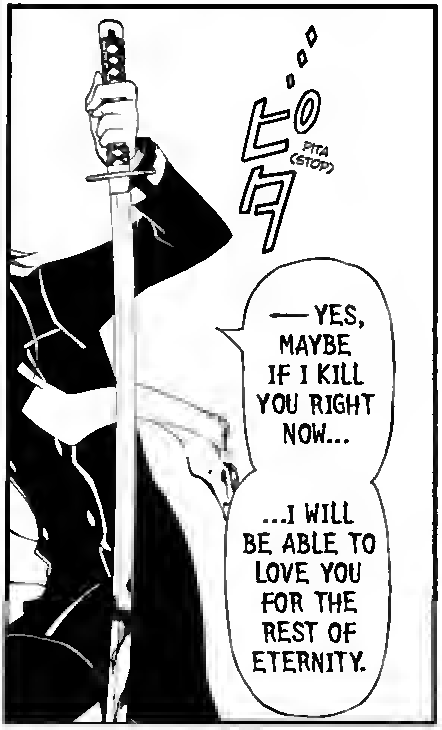
HA HA HA HA!
DOSU
DOSU
DOSU
DOSU
DOSU


DOSU
DOSU
DOSU
DOSU

OR WILL I MERELY FORGET YOU IN THE NEXT INSTANT?
ヒュー
HYU (WHOOSH)

IT'S ONLY...
ビシャ
BISHA (SPLASH)
...WHEN YOU'RE SUFFERING LIKE THIS...

...THAT I FEEL ALMOST FOND OF YOU!
ドス
DOSU
ドス
DOSU


ヒの字
PITA (STOP)
— YES, MAYBE IF I KILL YOU RIGHT NOW...
...I WILL BE ABLE TO LOVE YOU FOR THE REST OF ETERNITY.

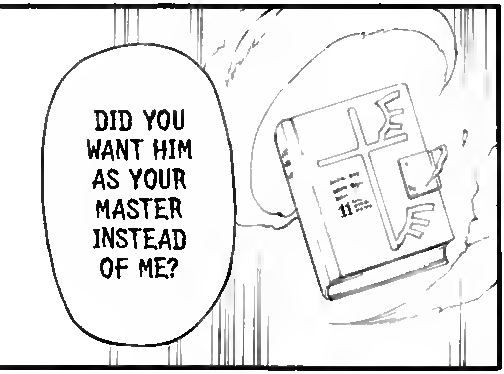
ZA
(SKSH)

I WON'T LET YOU KILL TSUZUKI.

... DOG.

IF YOU KILL THEM NOW...
...THE CRUSADE WILL BE OVER.
OH, RIGHT.

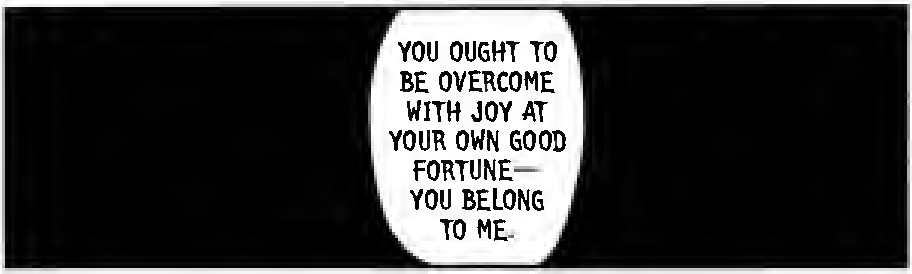
SHOULD WE GO AFTER THEM?
...NO, LET THEM BE.

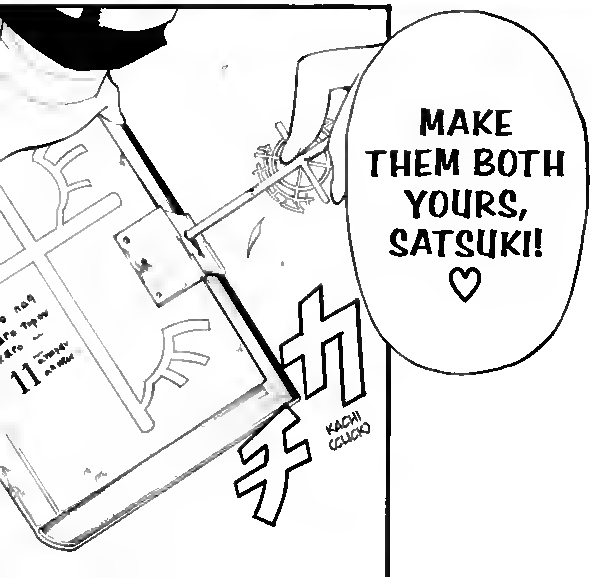

DID YOU WANT HIM AS YOUR MASTER INSTEAD OF ME?

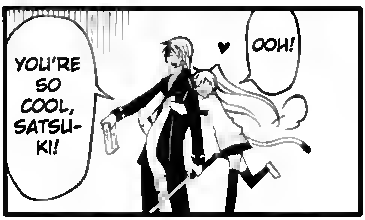
HEH...

HA HA!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
GOOOO (WHOOSH)
GA (GRAB)

GOD'S PROPH-ECY BOOK...
JUUUUU (SZZZT)
...THE BOOK OF DA'AT.

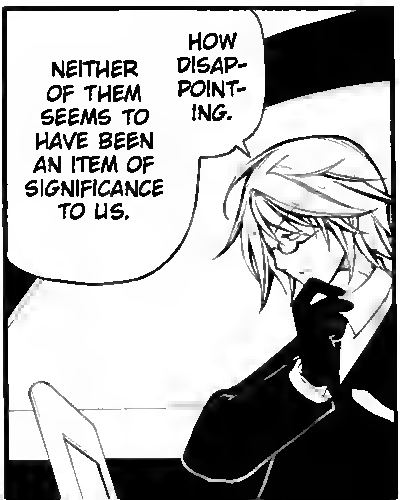

YOU OUGHT TO BE OVERCOME WITH JOY AT YOUR OWN GOOD FORTUNE— YOU BELONG TO ME.

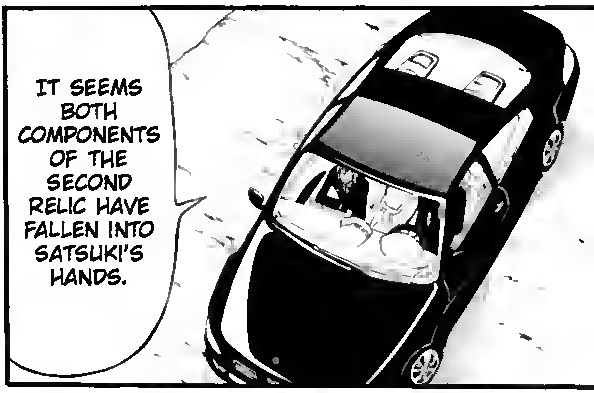

MAKE THEM BOTH YOURS, SATSUKI! ♡
KACHI GUCHO


OOH!
YOU'RE SO COOL, SATSU-KI!

HERE.
THE BOOK'S KEY.

KOO (WHOOM)


HOW DISAP-POINT-ING.
NEITHER OF THEM SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN AN ITEM OF SIGNIFICANCE TO US.

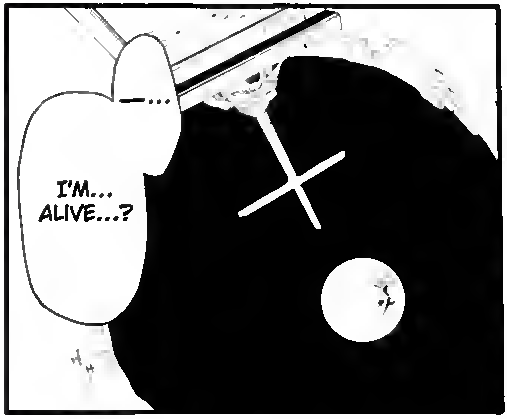

IT SEEMS BOTH COMPONENTS OF THE SECOND RELIC HAVE FALLEN INTO SATSUKI'S HANDS.

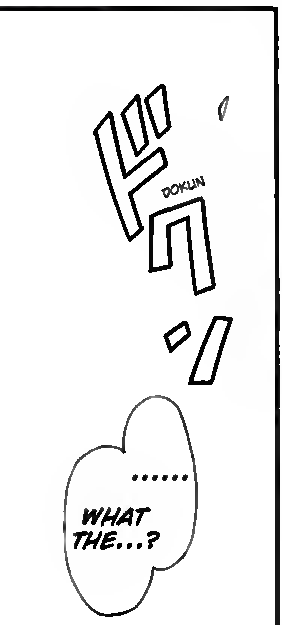
...WITH THAT PROPHECY BOOK IN SATSUKI'S HANDS...
...THERE SHOULD BE SOME INTERESTING CHANGES AHEAD.
YET ...
THE LOSS OF OUR SENPAI...
WELL, THE RELICS ARE RANDOMLY GENERATED, AFTER ALL...
BUT SATSUKI IS IN OUR DEBT NOW, SO SOME GOOD HAS COME OF IT.
PI (BEEP)
IS THAT...
...ANOTHER THING YOU'VE SEEN?
IN ADDITION, THE ONE WE'LL NEED TO KEEP OUR EYES ON IS...
YES.
...THAT YOUNGER BROTHER...
...TSUZUKI.

DEPENDING ON HOW HE MOVES...
...FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS COULD UNFOLD QUITE DIFFERENTLY.
PIKU (TWITCH)
WHAT IS IT?
BA (WHOOO)
SOMETHING
...WAS WATCHING US JUST NOW.
ZAA (RSTL)

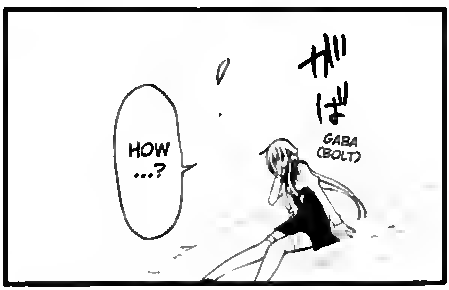
ZA
NI
GORIND

ビュン
—NGH!!!
BIKUN CHUMP


—...
I'M... ALIVE...?


DOKUN
.....
WHAT THE...?

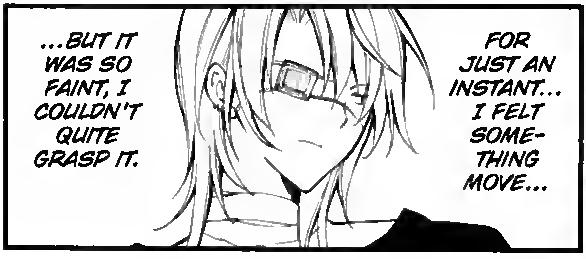
DOKUN
DOKUN
DOKUN
SHURU (SLIP)

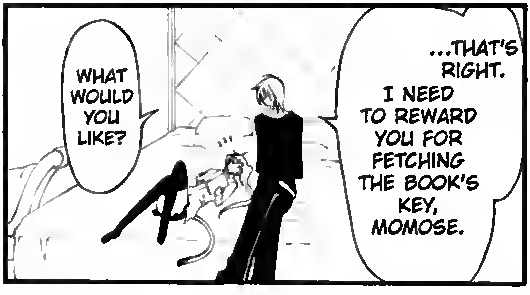

GABA (BOLT)
HOW ...?

URK!
DOKUN (BADUM)

A NEW CURSE MARK?

A NEW CURSE MARK?


...BUT IT WAS SO FAINT, I COULDN'T QUITE GRASP IT.
FOR JUST AN INSTANT... I FELT SOME-THING MOVE...

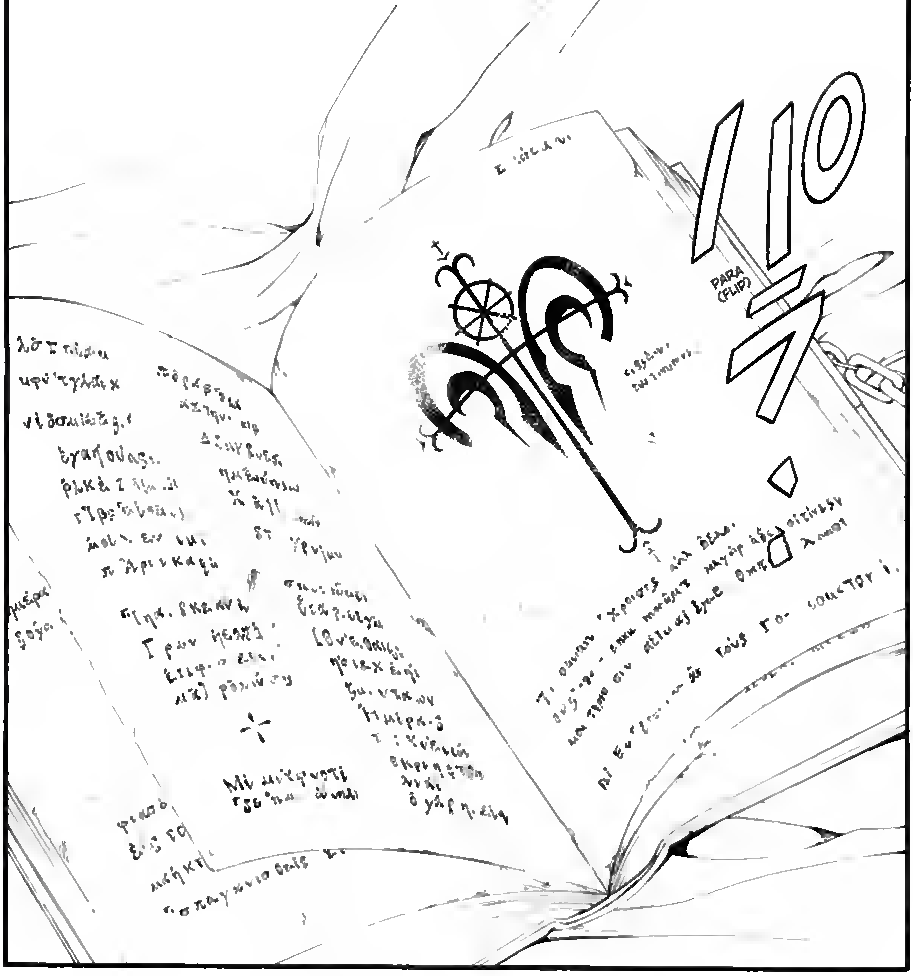

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
...THAT'S RIGHT. I NEED TO REWARD YOU FOR FETCHING THE BOOK'S KEY, MOMOSE.

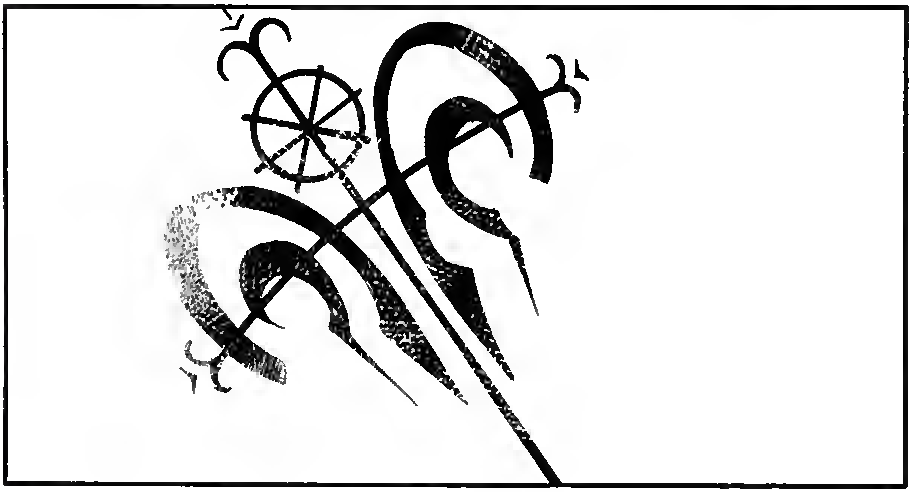
YOU GOT YOURSELF CHAINED UP FOR NOT BEHAVING!
PROPH-ECY BOOK ...
PROPH-ECY BOOK ...

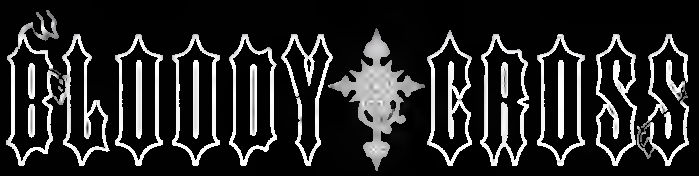
HEH...

YOU.

AHH!


110
PARA
(FLIP)




BLOODY CROSS

BLOODY CROSS

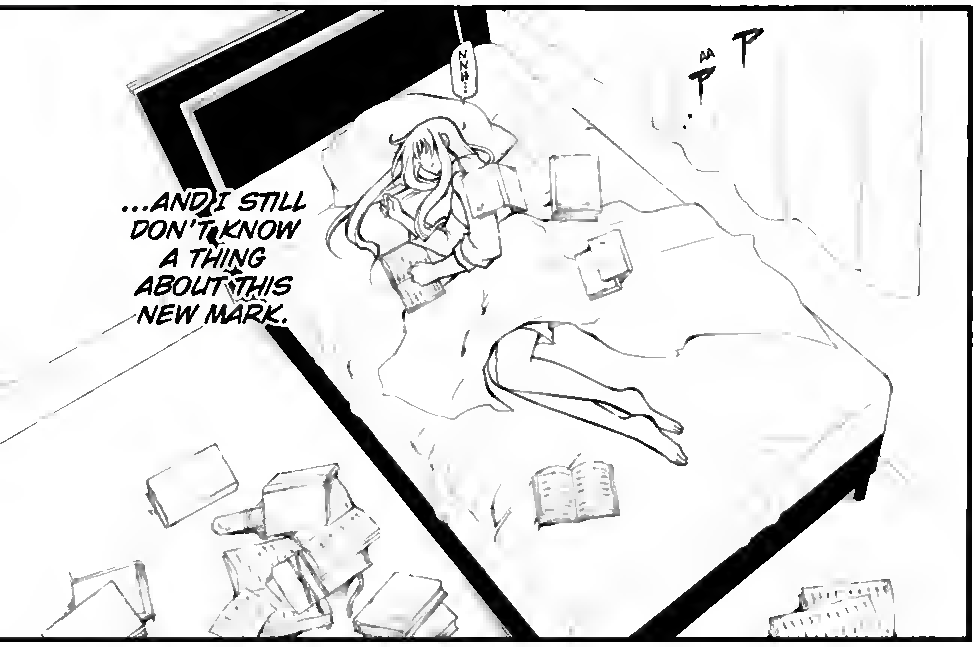
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
WHY...
...DO I HAVE ANOTHER MARK?

Chapter 10
The Meaning of the Mark

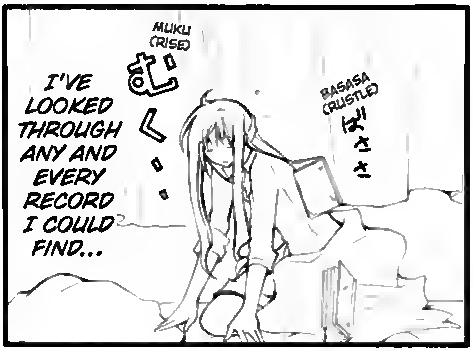
Chapter 10
The Meaning of the Mark

BLOODY CROSS

—IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS SINCE THEN...
ZAAA (FSHHH)

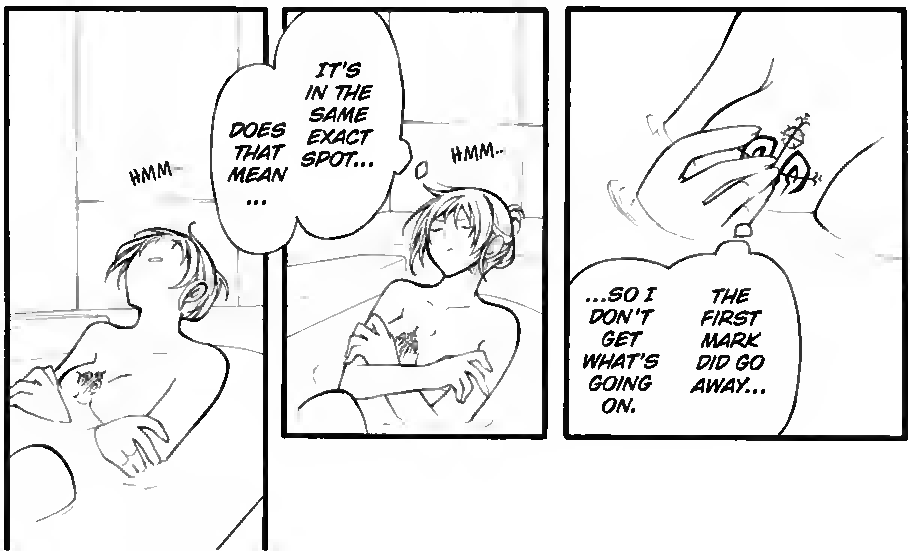

NYA...
...AND I STILL DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT THIS NEW MARK.

...BUT...

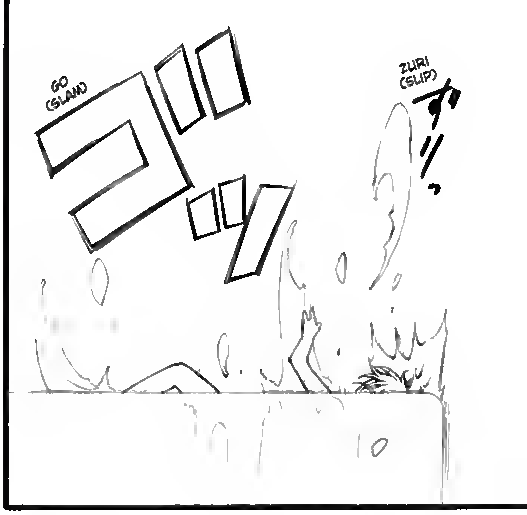

MUKU (RISE)
I'VE LOOKED THROUGH ANY AND EVERY RECORD I COULD FIND...
BASASA (RUSTLE)

YAWN
...
...I'M STILL IN THE DARK.
CLICK
SASA (RUSTLE)
ぱさっ

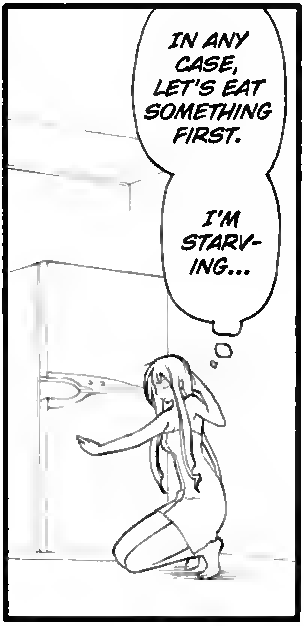
I REALLY WISH...
...IT HAD ALL BEEN A DREAM THAT WOULD HAVE VANISHED OVER-NIGHT.


HMM
DOES THAT MEAN ...
IT'S IN THE SAME EXACT SPOT...
HMM..
...SO I DON'T GET WHAT'S GOING ON.
THE FIRST MARK DID GO AWAY...

SASU (RUB)
さす
SASU
さす


GO (SLAM)
ゴッ
ZURI (SLIP)
ズリッ

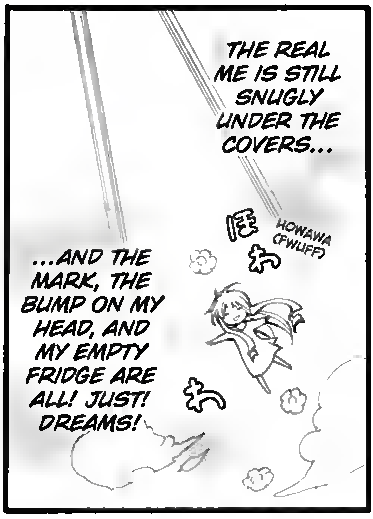
GACHA (KACHAK)
ガチャ

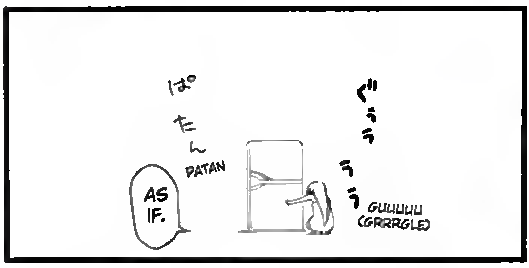

IN ANY CASE, LET'S EAT SOMETHING FIRST.
I'M STARV-ING...

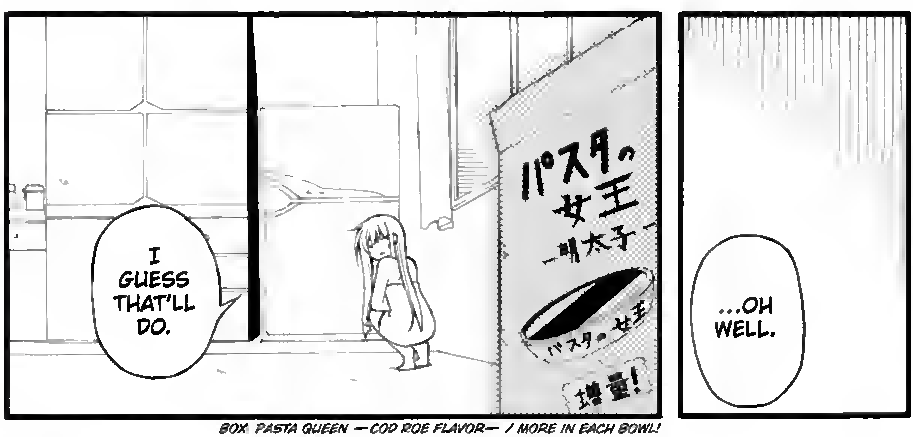
PATAN (SHUT)
ぱたん

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS...?
WHY IS NOTHING GOING MY WAY?
...OH RIGHT, A DREAM... IT'S GOTTA BE A DREAM.

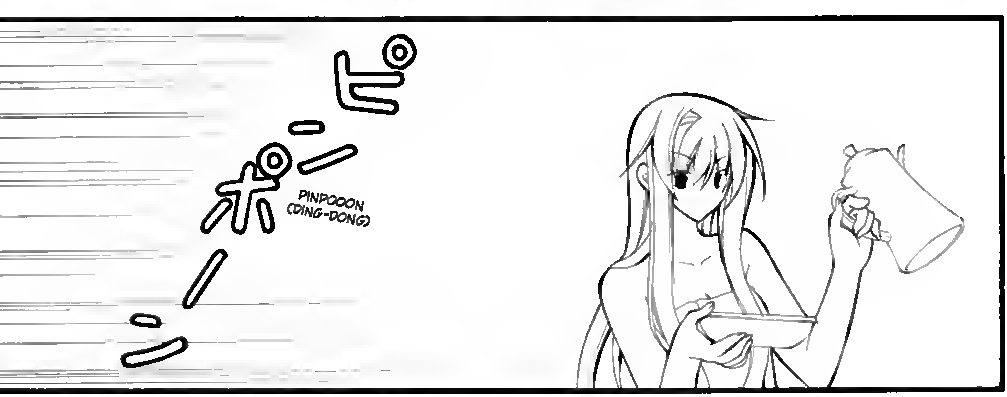
...WHAT THE...?


THE REAL ME IS STILL SNUGLY UNDER THE COVERS...
HOWAWA (FWUFF)
...AND THE MARK, THE BUMP ON MY HEAD, AND MY EMPTY FRIDGE ARE ALL! JUST! DREAMS!

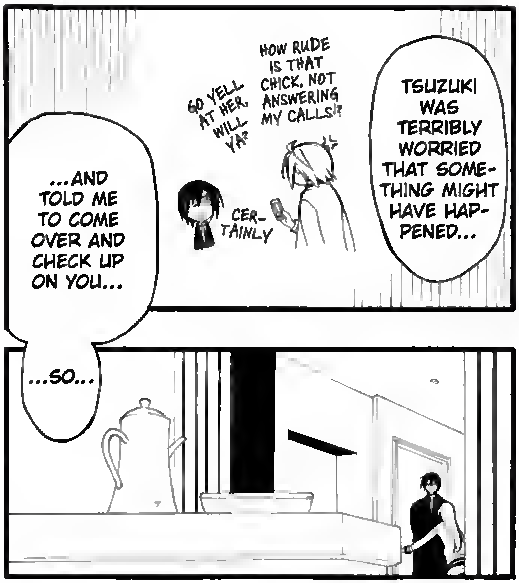


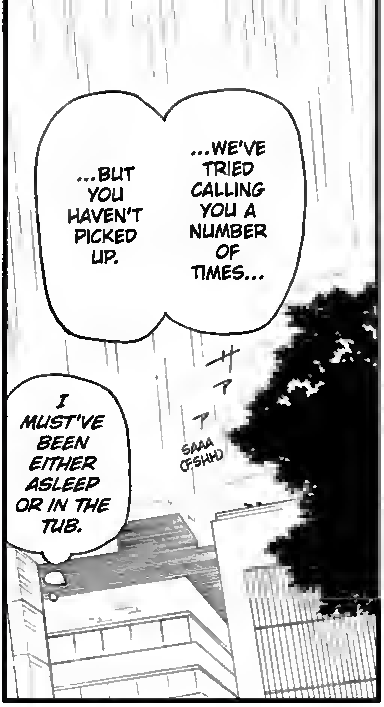


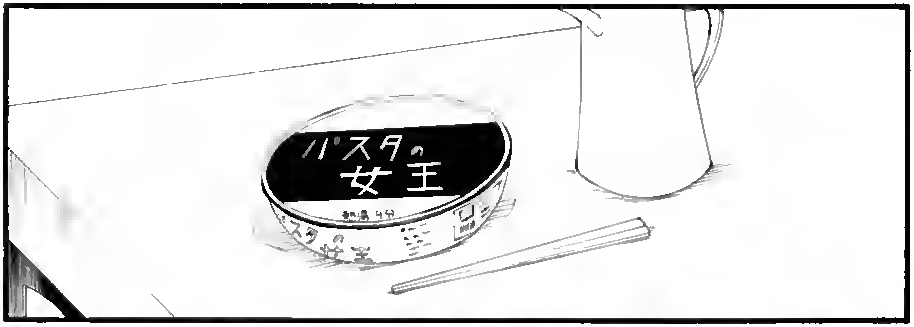
BOX. PASTA QUEEN —COD ROE FLAVOR— / MORE IN EACH BOWL!



...GOOD DAY.
PASHA (SPLASH)
HOW...DO YOU KNOW WHERE I LIVE...?
MM? YOU MEAN, WHY THE SUDDEN VISIT?
NO, I—
THE REASON IS...
HUH ...?


TSUZUKI WAS TERRIBLY WORRIED THAT SOMETHING MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED...
HOW RUDE IS THAT CHICK, NOT ANSWERING MY CALLS!?
GO YELL AT HER, WILL YA?
CERTAINLY
...AND TOLD ME TO COME OVER AND CHECK UP ON YOU...
...SO...



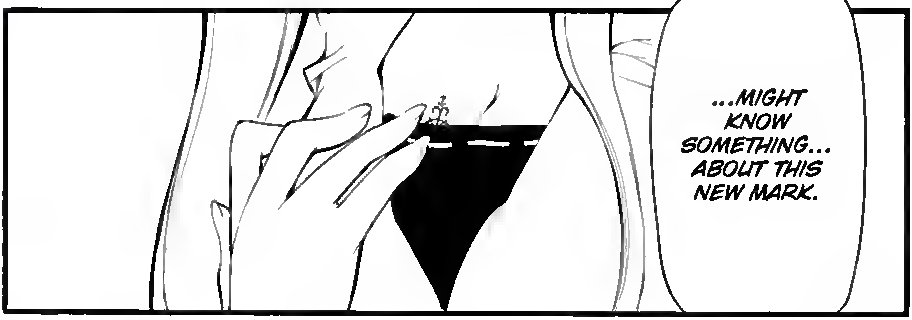


PACKAGE. PASTA QUEEN / READY IN FOUR MINUTES

ZA (WHOOSH)
TSK TSK
ESPECIALLY WHILE YOU'RE YOUNG AND GROWING
PROPER FOOD, NOT THIS GARBAGE.
YOU NEED TO EAT BETTER THAN THIS.
IM-POUND-ED!
WAI—
GAN (SHOCK)
I'VE PREPARED BEEF CHEEK STEWED IN RED WINE AT TSUZUKI'S...
...SO WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME AND EAT THERE?
THERE'S ALSO PUFF PASTRY-ENCRUSTED SOUP, CARPACCIO, GRANITÉ..
HANAMURA-SAN'S DISHES ARE DIVINE!
DOKIN (TWINGE)
Oh my...!

.....
COME
TSUZUKI IS WAITING.

—THAT PURE-BLOOD ...


...MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING... ABOUT THIS NEW MARK.

THE FOOD IS WAITING AS WELL.
YES, YES, I'M HURRY-ING!
GRRRRR
GRRRRR

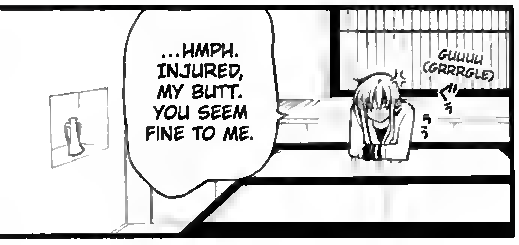
URP!

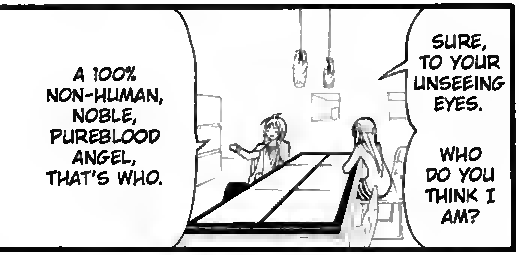
TSSSK!
TSSSK!
AHHHH— THE ESSEN-TIALS OF REHAB...
...ARE LOTS OF SLEEP AND PROPER NUTRITION—
NN...?
GA (GRAB)

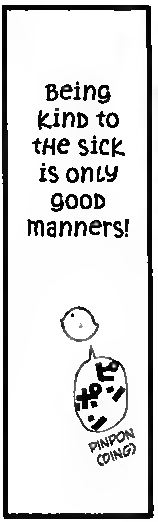
FOOOON (SOUNDING)

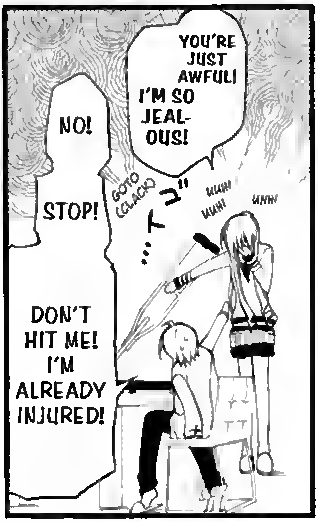
...UH... YES, WELL... SORRY, I ATE IT ALL...
YOU COULD'VE LEFT ONE DISH...
URP..
UUH!
UNH!
UUH!
AHH!
UUH!
UUH!

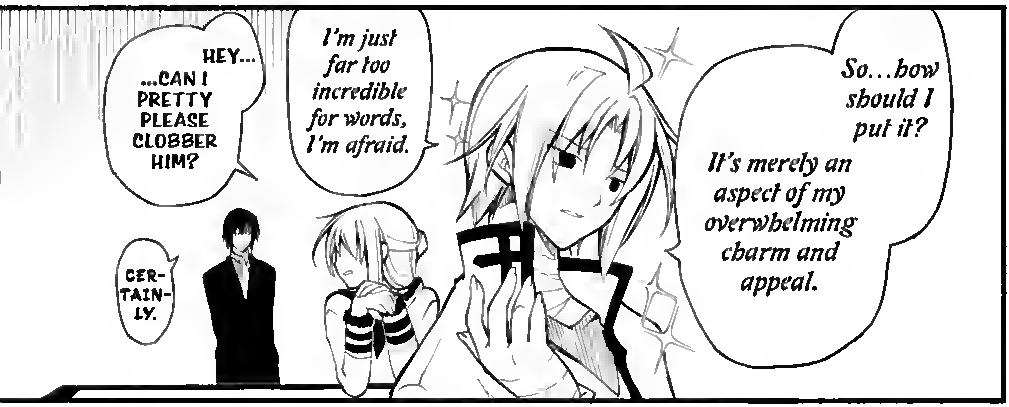
GAKU (SHAKE)
GAKU
GAKU
GAKU
GAKU
GAKU

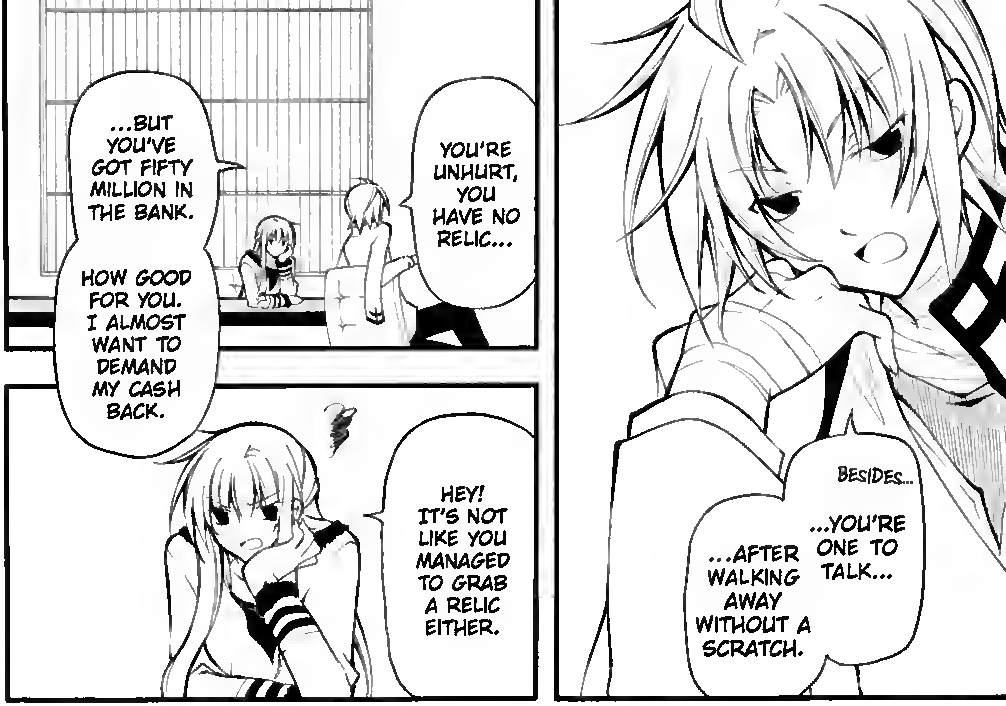

...HMPH. INJURED, MY BUTT. YOU SEEM FINE TO ME.
GUUUU (GRRRGLE)


A 100% NON-HUMAN, NOBLE, PUREBLOOD ANGEL, THAT'S WHO.
SURE, TO YOUR UNSEEING EYES.
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?


Being kind to the sick is only good manners!
PINPON (DING)

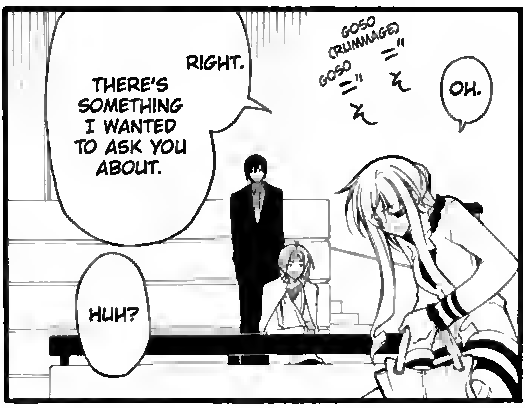

YOU'RE JUST AWFUL!
I'M SO JEAL-OUS!
NO!
STOP!
GOTO (CLACK)
UUH!
UUH!
UNH!
DON'T HIT ME! I'M ALREADY INJURED!


HEY... ...CAN I PRETTY PLEASE CLOBBER HIM?
CER-TAIN-LY.
I'm just far too incredible for words, I'm afraid.
So...how should I put it?
It's merely an aspect of my overwhelming charm and appeal.

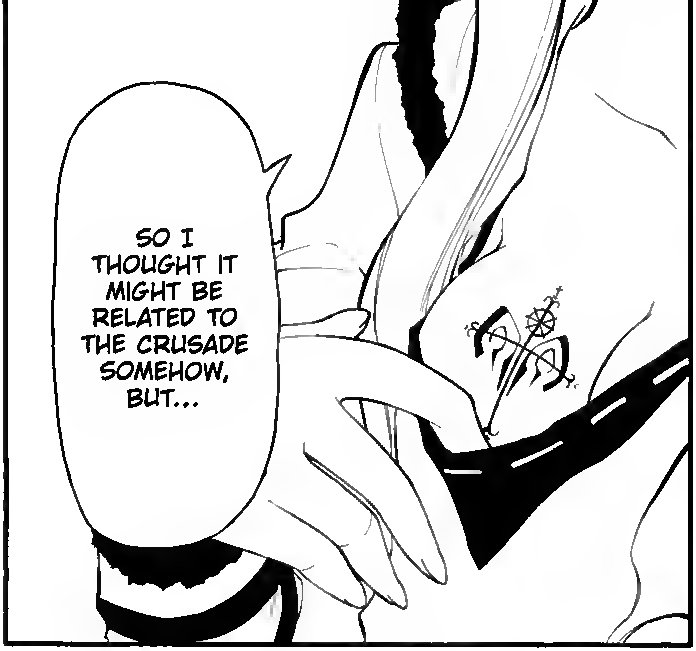

YOU'RE UNHURT, YOU HAVE NO RELIC...
...BUT YOU'VE GOT FIFTY MILLION IN THE BANK.
HOW GOOD FOR YOU. I ALMOST WANT TO DEMAND MY CASH BACK.
HEY! IT'S NOT LIKE YOU MANAGED TO GRAB A RELIC EITHER.
BESIDES...
...YOU'RE ONE TO TALK...
...AFTER WALKING AWAY WITHOUT A SCRATCH.

AND BY THE WAY, I DID GET HURT, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IN FACT, I ONLY JUST GOT BACK ON MY FEET...

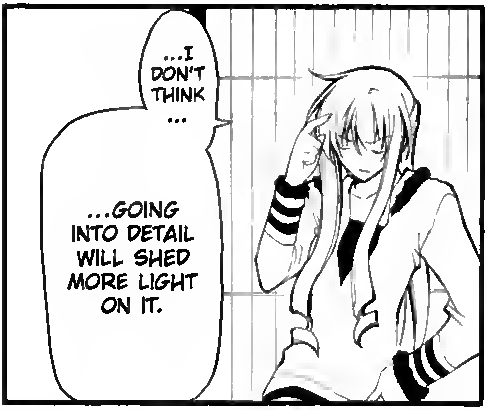
TASHI (GRIP)
THIS.


GOSO (RUMMAGE)
OH.
RIGHT.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT.
HUH?

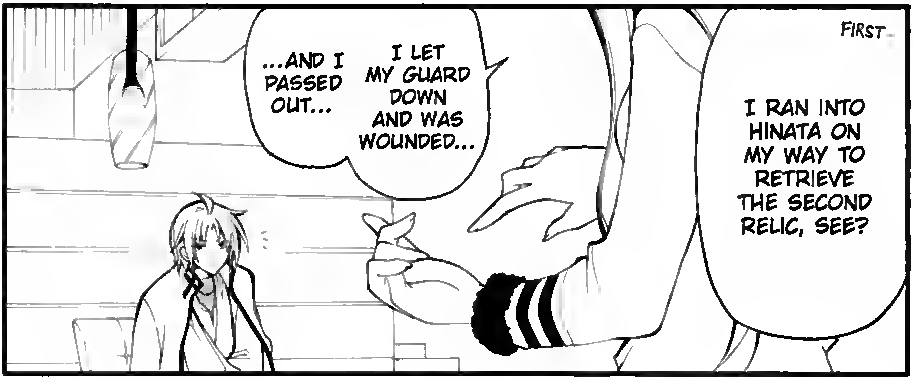
DO YOU KNOW ANY-THING...
...ABOUT THIS SIGIL?
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE.
YOU, HANA-MURA?
MM...
ANYTHING AT ALL!
JUST TELL ME WHATEVER YOU MIGHT KNOW.
PLEASE.
... WELL ... I CANNOT SAY THAT I HAVE.
HIRA ヒラ
HIRA (WAVE) ヒラ
SO? WHAT IS IT?
GAKKARI (SLUMP) ガックリ
...I SEE.

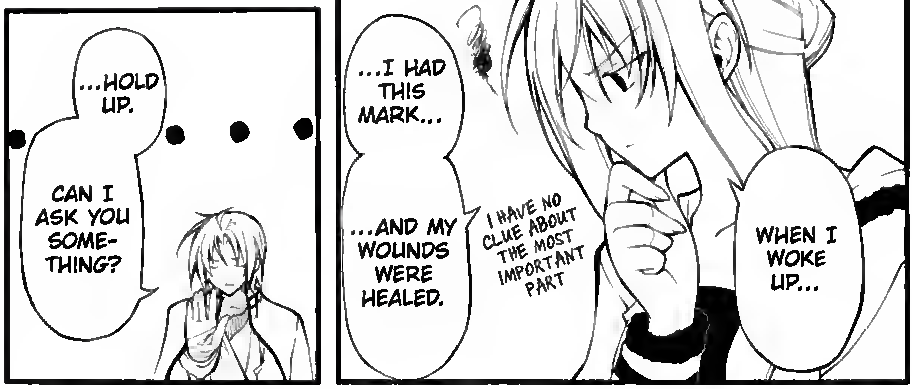

SO I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE RELATED TO THE CRUSADE SOMEHOW, BUT...

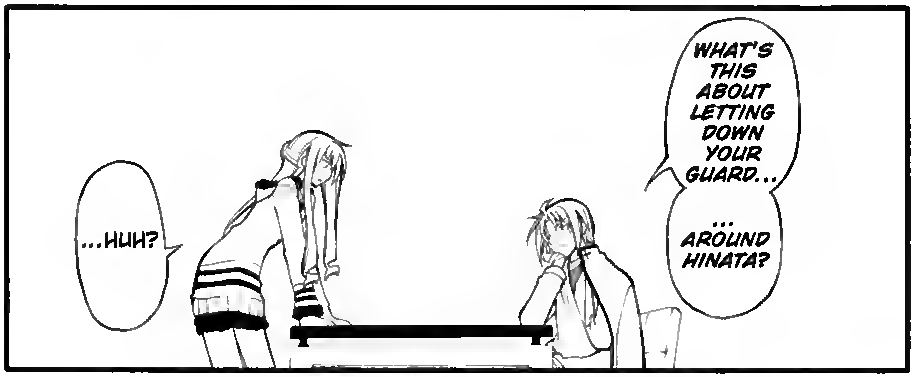
IT SHOWED UP ON MY CHEST AFTER THE SECOND RELIC APPEARED.
.....


...I DON'T THINK ...
...GOING INTO DETAIL WILL SHED MORE LIGHT ON IT.

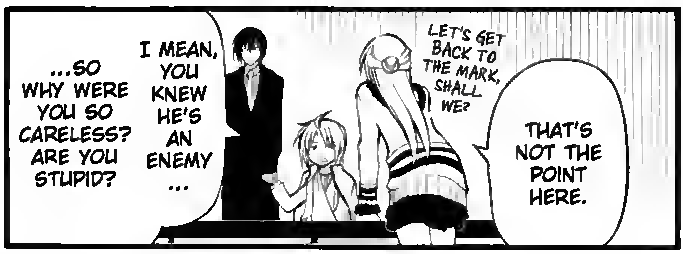
WAIT... TELL US EVERY-THING.
!
.....!


...AND I PASSED OUT...
I LET MY GUARD DOWN AND WAS WOUNDED...
I RAN INTO HINATA ON MY WAY TO RETRIEVE THE SECOND RELIC, SEE?
FIRST

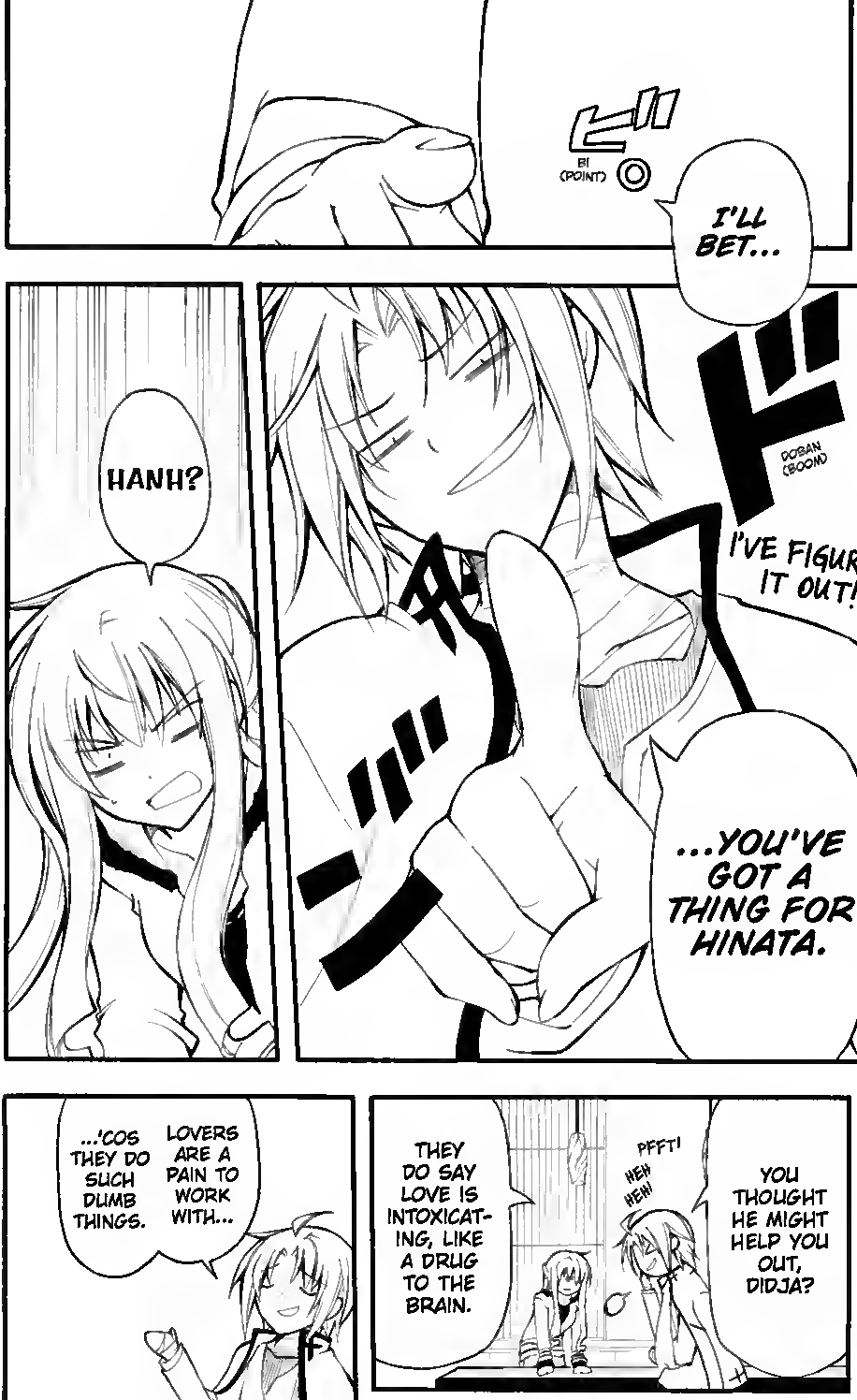

...HOLD UP.
CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
...I HAD THIS MARK...
...AND MY WOUNDS WERE HEALED.
I HAVE NO CLUE ABOUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART
WHEN I WOKE UP...


...HUH?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT LETTING DOWN YOUR GUARD... ... AROUND HINATA?

... AHH ... I SEE.
RIGHT, RIGHT.
GOT IT.


...SO WHY WERE YOU SO CARELESS? ARE YOU STUPID?
I MEAN, YOU KNEW HE'S AN ENEMY ...
LET'S GET BACK TO THE MARK, SHALL WE?
THAT'S NOT THE POINT HERE.

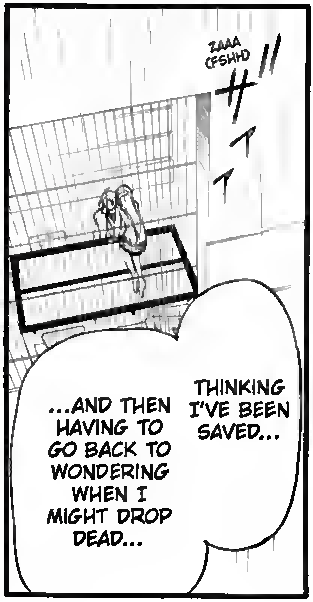
SEEMS LIKE A CONTRA-DICTION ...
...WHEN YOU RUN INTO HIM, YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN...
Y'KNOW... YOU SAID YOU HAD MADE A MISTAKE ABOUT HINATA, AND YET...


ヒル
BI (POINT)
I'LL BET...
ドバン (BOOM)
I'VE FIGURED IT OUT!
...YOU'VE GOT A THING FOR HINATA.
HANH?
YOU THOUGHT HE MIGHT HELP YOU OUT, DIDJA?
PFFT!
HEH HEH!
THEY DO SAY LOVE IS INTOXICATING, LIKE A DRUG TO THE BRAIN.
LOVERS ARE A PAIN TO WORK WITH...
...'COS THEY DO SUCH DUMB THINGS.

...HOLD IT!
DON'T GO OFF ON SOME STUPID TANGENT!
IRA (IRK)
ARE YOU...
...REALLY THE KIND OF MUSH-BRAINED IDIOT...
...WHO THINKS EVERY-THING'S ABOUT LOVE AND ROMANCE?
GA (THUMP)
MISHI (GRIND)
IF YOU WERE GONNA GO IN THERE AND GET YOUR ASS KICKED ANYWAY...
...MAYBE YOU SHOULD'VE LET THEM RATTLE YOUR STUPID HEAD AROUND A LITTLE MORE.
I'M TELLING YOU...ABOUT THIS MARK IN ALL SERI-OUSNESS.
IT'S REALLY IMPOR-TANT TO ME!
PIKI (SNAP)
...EXCUSE ME?

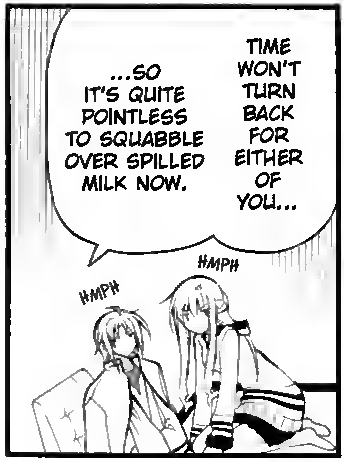
ZAAAA
YOU'LL NEVER UNDER-STAND...
...THE WEIGHT OF THIS MARK.

GYU (SQUEEZE)
THIS MARK...
...WILL BRING DEATH, JUST LIKE THE MIXED-RACE MARK.
THAT'S THE FEELING I GET.

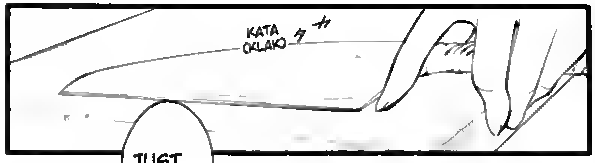

ZAAA (FSHHD
THINKING I'VE BEEN SAVED...
...AND THEN HAVING TO GO BACK TO WONDERING WHEN I MIGHT DROP DEAD...

...YOU KNOW, IF I'D NEVER...
...GOTTEN INVOLVED WITH THE SECOND RELICS...
...THIS MARK MIGHT NOT HAVE POPPED UP.
SAN (SLAM)
EXCUSE ME?
SO THIS IS ALL MY FAULT?
YOU'RE THE WORST.

ALL RIGHT, CHILDREN.
PAN
PAN (CLAP)

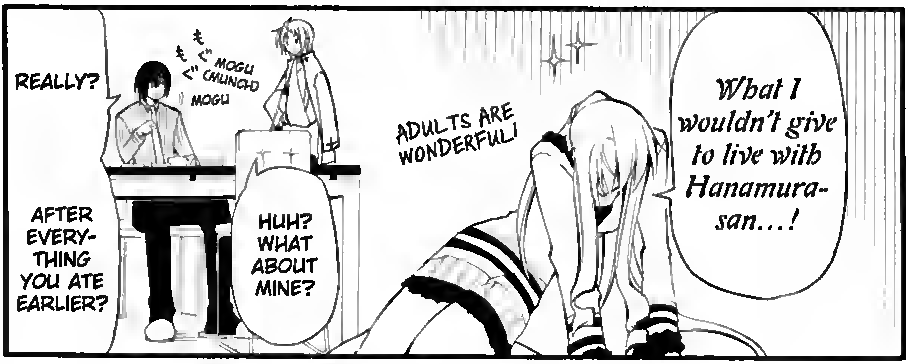

TIME WON'T TURN BACK FOR EITHER OF YOU...
...SO IT'S QUITE POINTLESS TO SQUABBLE OVER SPILLED MILK NOW.
HMPH
HMPH

RUSHING TO VIOLENCE IS PROOF OF AN IMMATURE MIND.
AND CLIMBING ONTO THE TABLE IS A NO-NO
TRUCE, TRUCE.


KATA OKLAK

JUST...
...GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES.

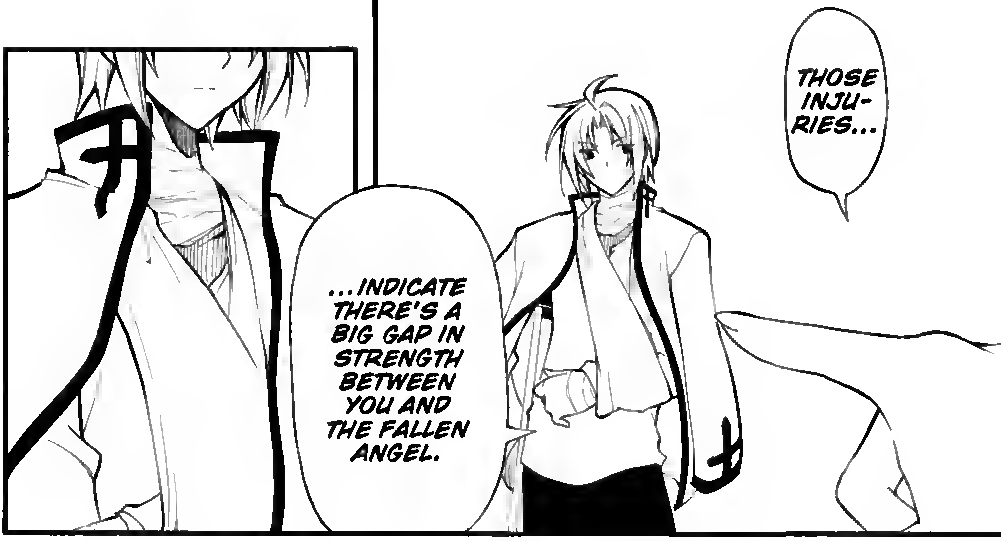
...AND I HAVEN'T MADE GOOD ON THAT PROMISE YET.
...BESIDES, I INVITED YOU OVER TO EAT...

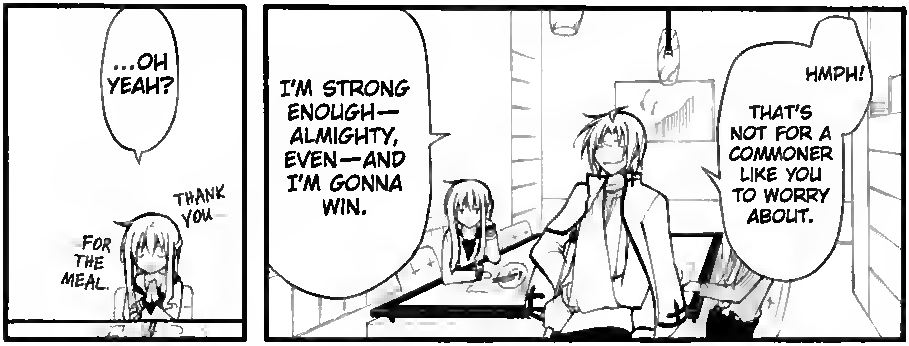

REALLY?
もぐ" MOGU
もぐ" CHUNCHO
MOGU
AFTER EVERY-THING YOU ATE EARLIER?
HUH? WHAT ABOUT MINE?
ADULTS ARE WONDERFUL!
What I wouldn't give to live with Hanamura-san...!

THE CRU-SADE.
YOUR CRU-SADE.

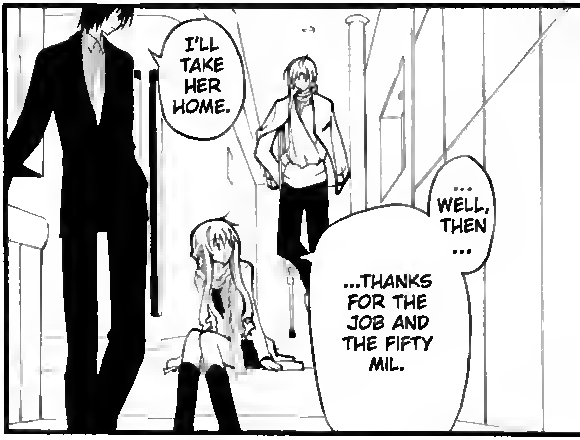
もぐ" MOGU
もぐ" MOGU
もぐ" MOGU
...GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, THOUGH?
WHAT?

IS IT...
ふ"
FUUU (POUT)

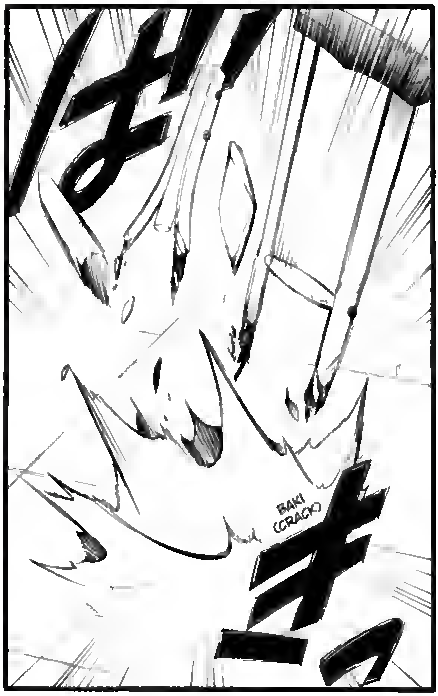

THOSE INJU-RIES...
...INDICATE THERE'S A BIG GAP IN STRENGTH BETWEEN YOU AND THE FALLEN ANGEL.


HMPH! THAT'S NOT FOR A COMMONER LIKE YOU TO WORRY ABOUT.
I'M STRONG ENOUGH— ALMIGHTY, EVEN—AND I'M GONNA WIN.
...OH YEAH?
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL.

ANY-WAY.
GOOD LUCK WITH THE CRUSADE.

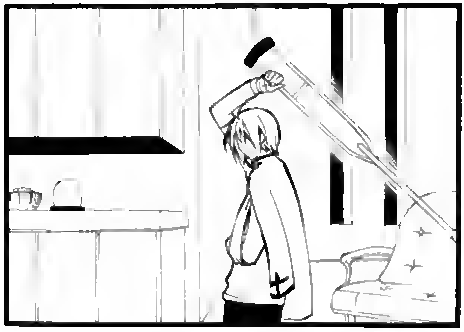

I'LL TAKE HER HOME.
... WELL, THEN ...
...THANKS FOR THE JOB AND THE FIFTY MIL.

AFTER ALL...
...I THINK THE WORLD WOULD BE BETTER OFF...
...WITH YOU AS GOD.


BAKI (CRACK)

LATER.
HIRA (WAVE)
HIRA

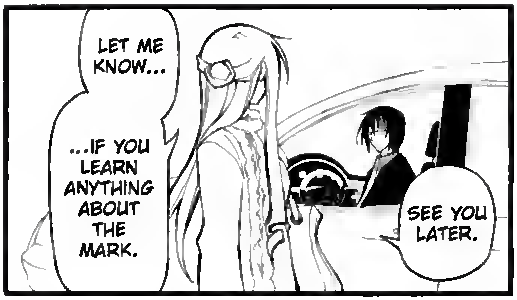
PATAN (SHUT)

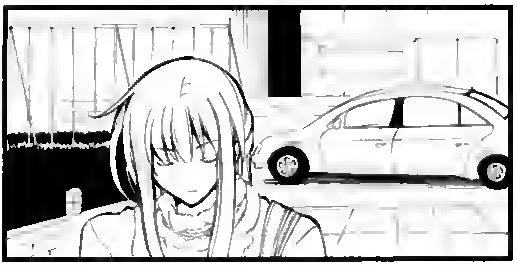


ZUKI (THROB)
OW...!

C'MON ...
...STUPID BODY.
ZUKI (THROB)
ズキ
ZUKI
ズキ
PATHETIC...
ブロロ
BURORO (VRMMM)

I BE-LIEVE...
...THE CRUSADE WILL CARRY ON FOR SOME TIME.
BOTH TSUZUKI AND I...
...HAVE THINGS WE MUST DO IN THIS GAME...
...EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE NO IDEA HOW IT WILL END.
PERHAPS WE'LL DISCOVER ...
...SOME-THING ABOUT YOUR MARK ON OUR QUEST FOR RELICS.
.....


LET ME KNOW...
...IF YOU LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT THE MARK.
SEE YOU LATER.



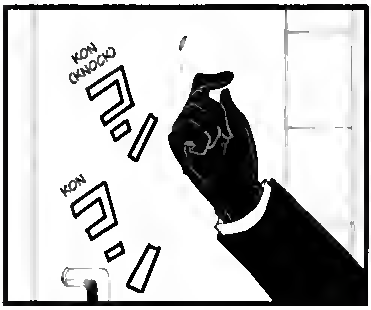
—THANKS FOR THE RIDE.
NO PROB-LEM.

...SINCE "SEE YOU LATER"...

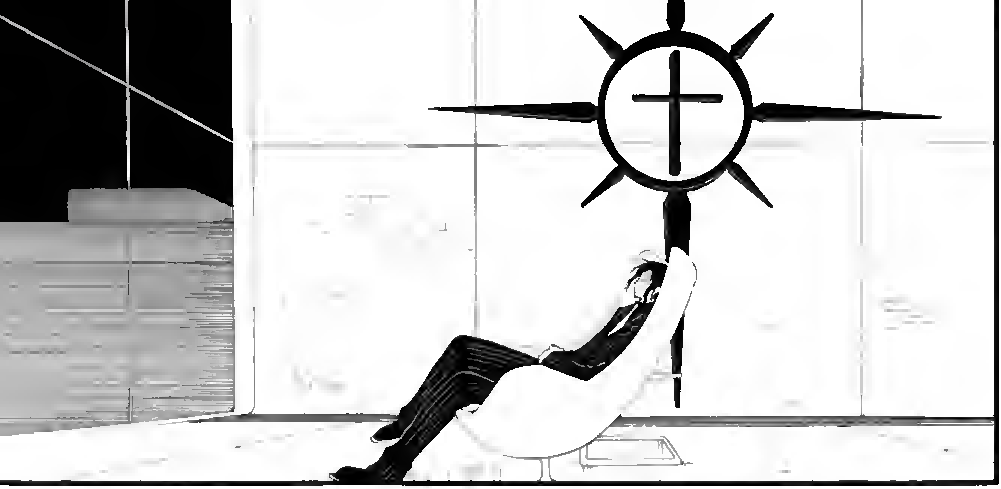
...I WILL ...
...CALL YOU *LATER* ABOUT A FUTURE JOB.
...INDICATES WE WILL BE MEETING AGAIN...

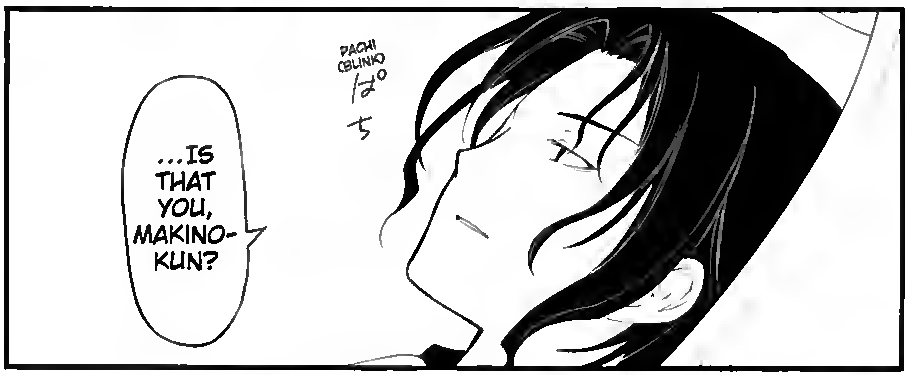
...OH YEAH?
WELL, WHETHER I TAKE IT OR NOT WILL DEPEND ON MY MOOD.
KII (CREAK)
THAT MARK...
ISN'T IT...?

KA
CTAK
KO
CTOK
KA

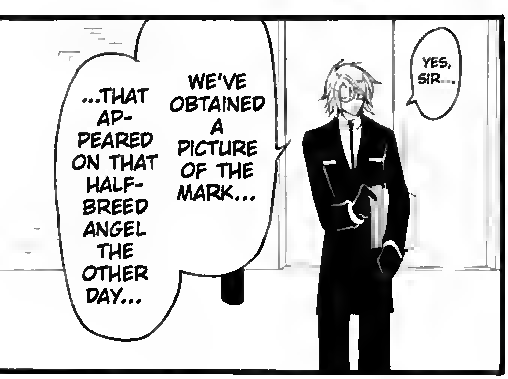

KON
CNOCK
KON

EXCUSE ME, YOUR EXCEL-LENCY.
WE JUST ACQUIRED THIS—
OH!




PACHI CHLINKO
...IS THAT YOU, MAKINO-KUN?

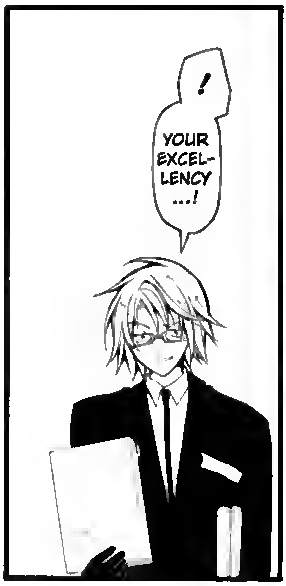
WELL?


YES, SIR...
WE'VE OBTAINED A PICTURE OF THE MARK...
...THAT APPEARED ON THAT HALF-BREED ANGEL THE OTHER DAY...

FORGIVE ME FOR DISTURBING YOU.
NO, NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'D ACTUALLY JUST FINISHED.

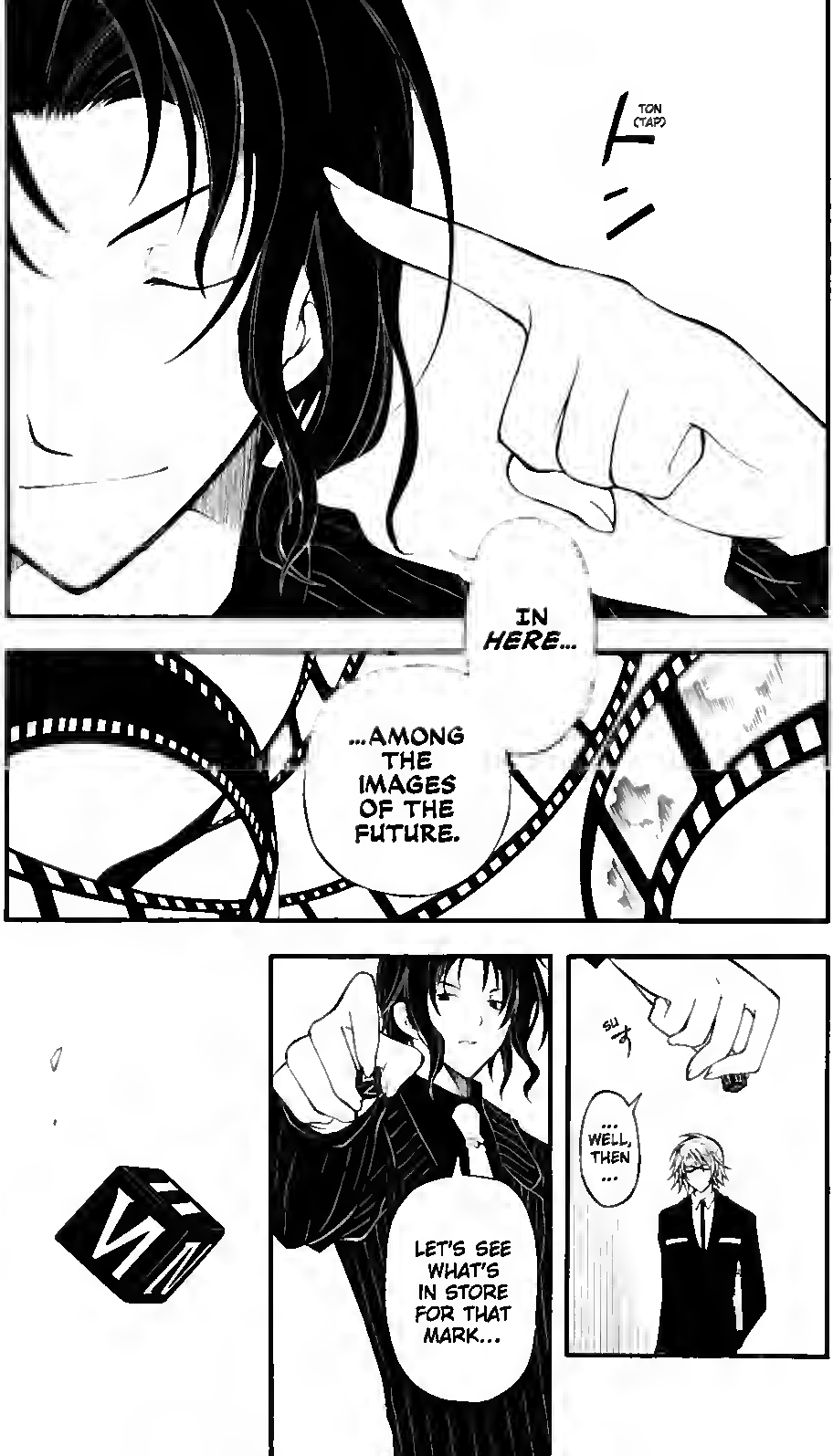
DOES THE MARK...
SARA (SKRT)
さら
SARA
さら

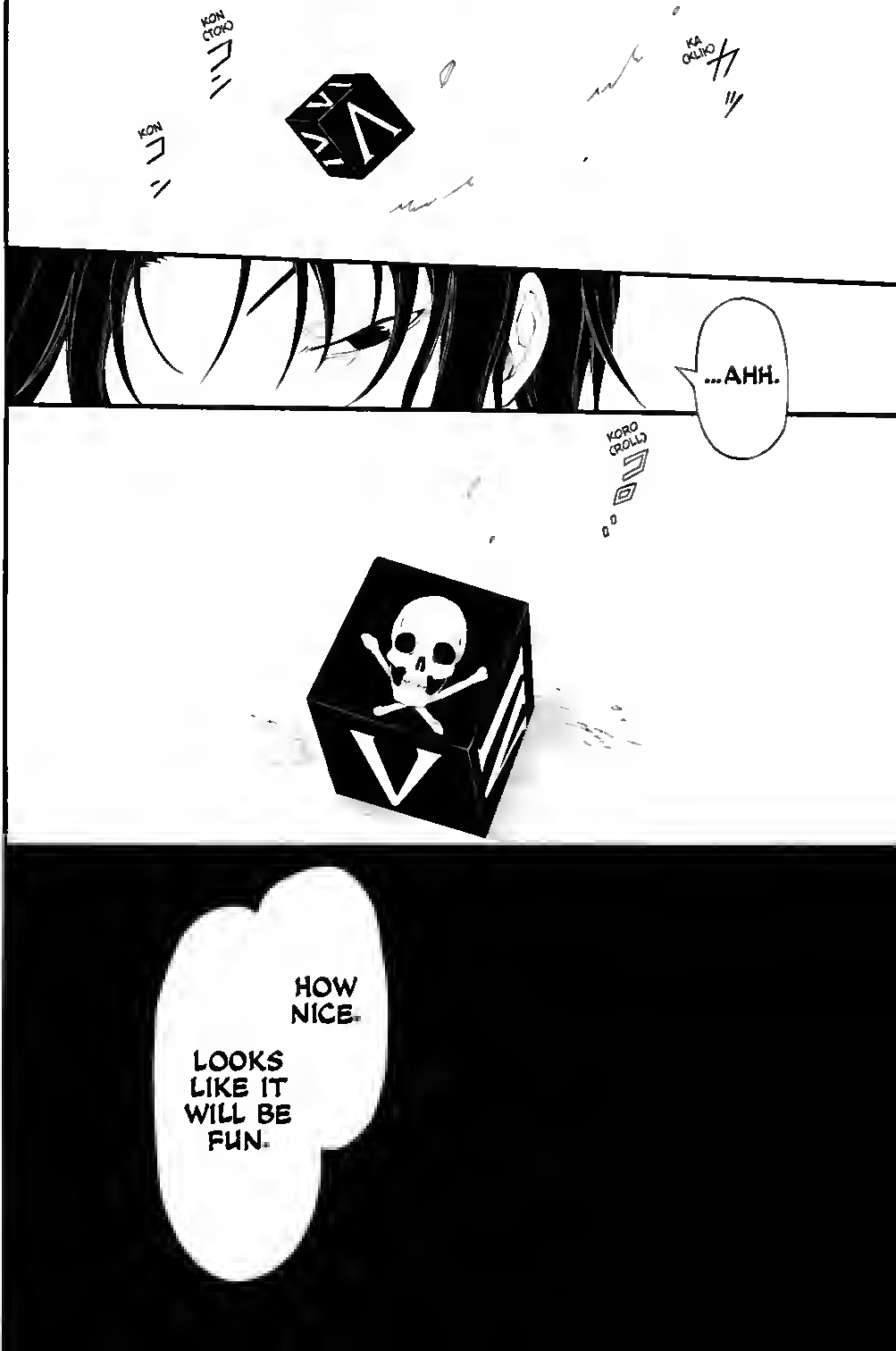
SU (SHFF)
WAIT.

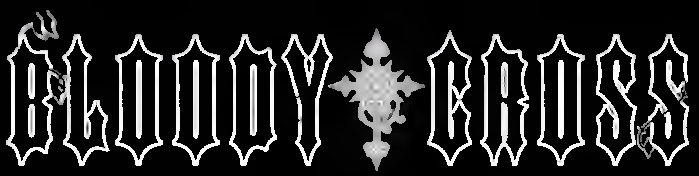

!
YOUR EXCEL-LENCY ...!

...LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

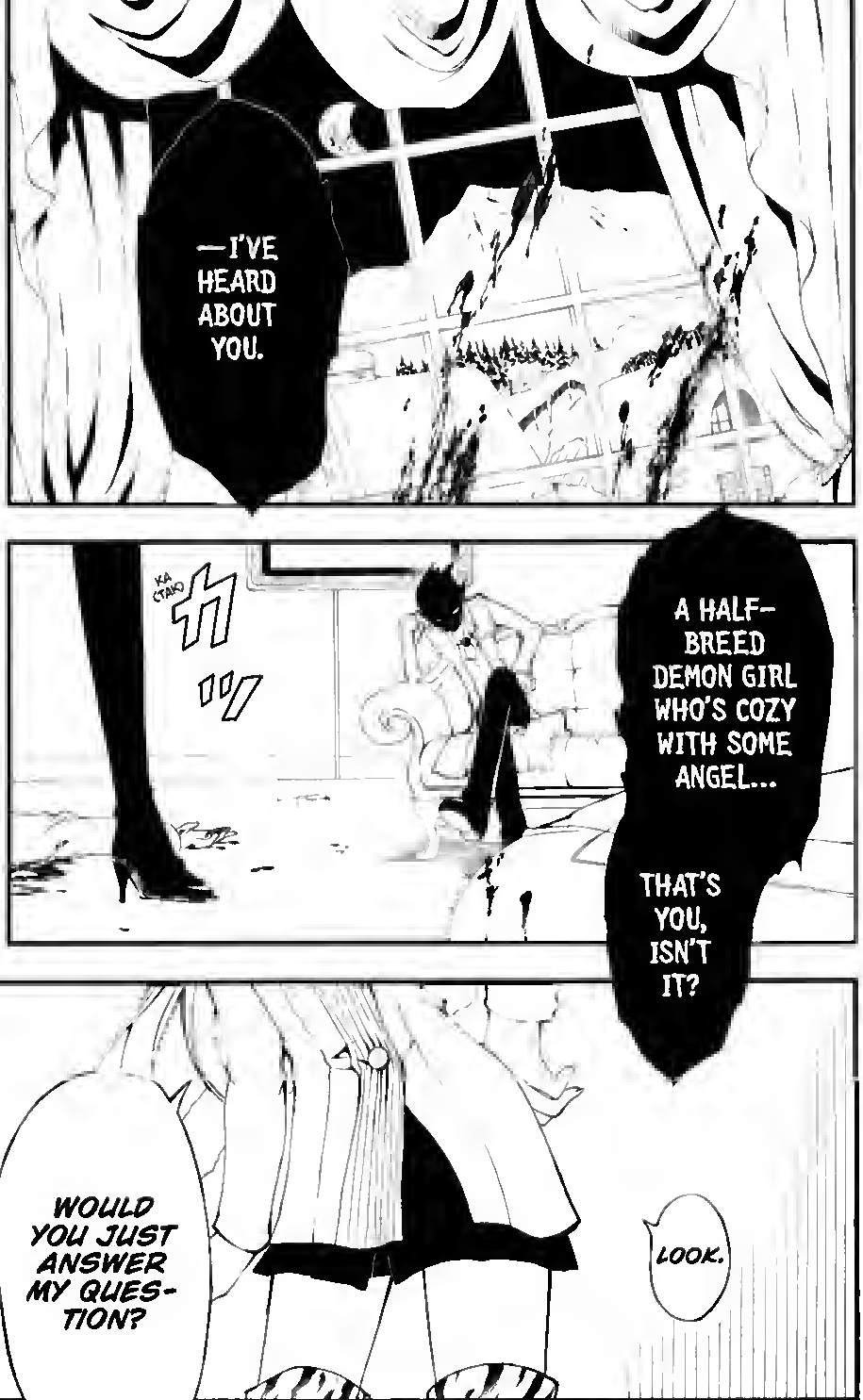
HA HA...
I JUST SAW THE *EXACT SAME THING* A MOMENT AGO.


TON (TAP)
IN HERE...
...AMONG THE IMAGES OF THE FUTURE.
LET'S SEE WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THAT MARK...
SU す
...WELL, THEN...


KON
KON
KA
...AHH.
KORO
HOW NICE.
LOOKS LIKE IT WILL BE FUN.

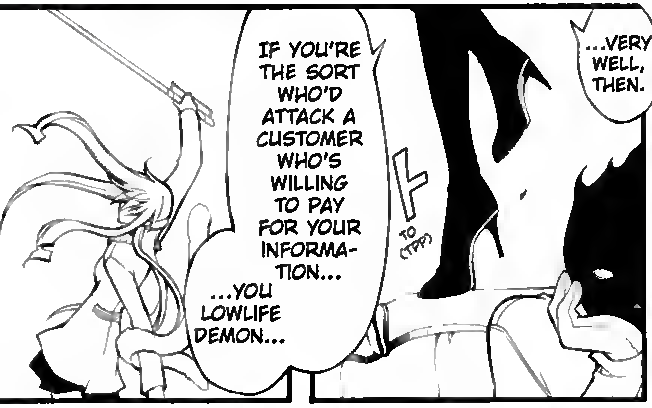

BLOODY CROSS

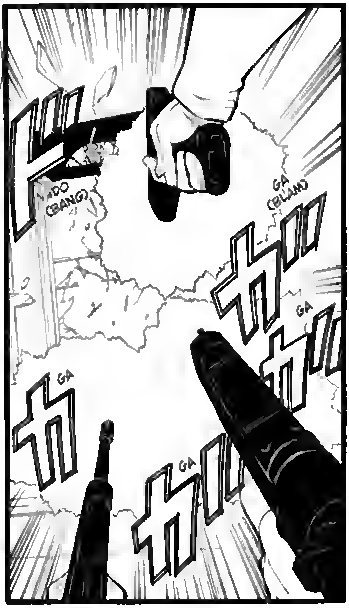
BLOODY CROSS

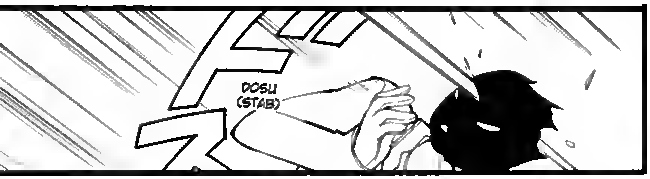

—I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU.
KA (TAK)
A HALF-BREED DEMON GIRL WHO'S COZY WITH SOME ANGEL...
THAT'S YOU, ISN'T IT?
LOOK.
WOULD YOU JUST ANSWER MY QUES-TION?

Chapter 11
The Death Mark

HAH.
LIKE I'D TELL YOU EITHER WAY.
JA (KACHI)


IF YOU'RE THE SORT WHO'D ATTACK A CUSTOMER WHO'S WILLING TO PAY FOR YOUR INFORMATION...
...YOU LOWLIFE DEMON...
TO (TAP)
...VERY WELL, THEN.


ADO (BANG)
GA (CLANG)
GA
GA
GA


DOSU (STAB)

...IT WILL BE FASTER TO JUST ASK YOUR BLOOD.

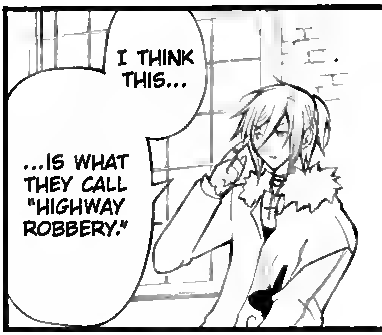
GABU (CHOMP)
ZAA (WHSH)
...HMM? ...BUT...
AND NOTHING RELATED TO THE CRUSADE EITHER... I SEE.
KII (WEE)
DE-CODING THE DEMON'S BLOOD... ZERO INTEL ON THE MARK.
GOKUN (GULP)
ZA
...NEARBY, THERE'S A—
ZAZA

GORI (PRESS)
.....
ARE YOU THIS DEMON'S PARTNER?

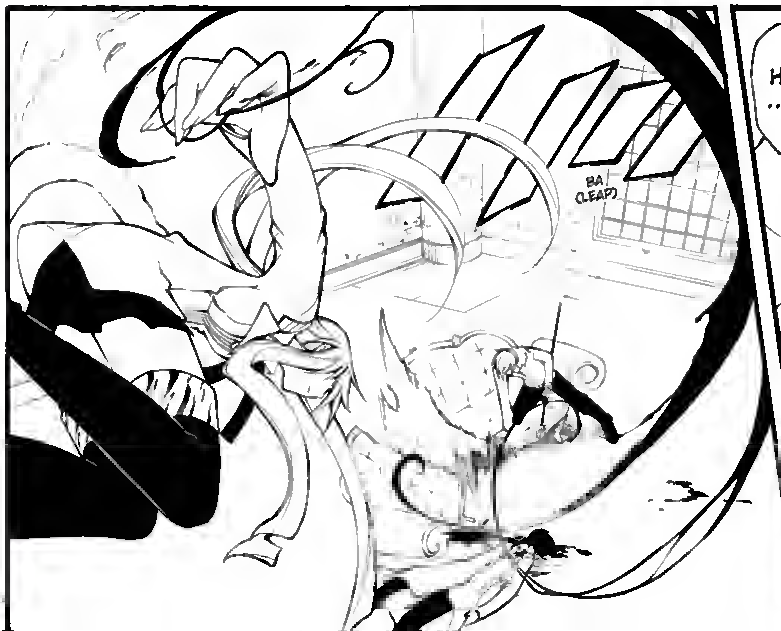
I COULD SELL IT TO YOU.
FOR A PRICE.
...DIDN'T YOU JUST TAKE IT FROM HIM FOR FREE?

ME? NAH.
BUT...
...I DO WANT HIS INTEL.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST SPILL IT, HUH?
AND I MAKE IT A RULE NOT TO DO FAIR BUSINESS WITH BAD PEOPLE.

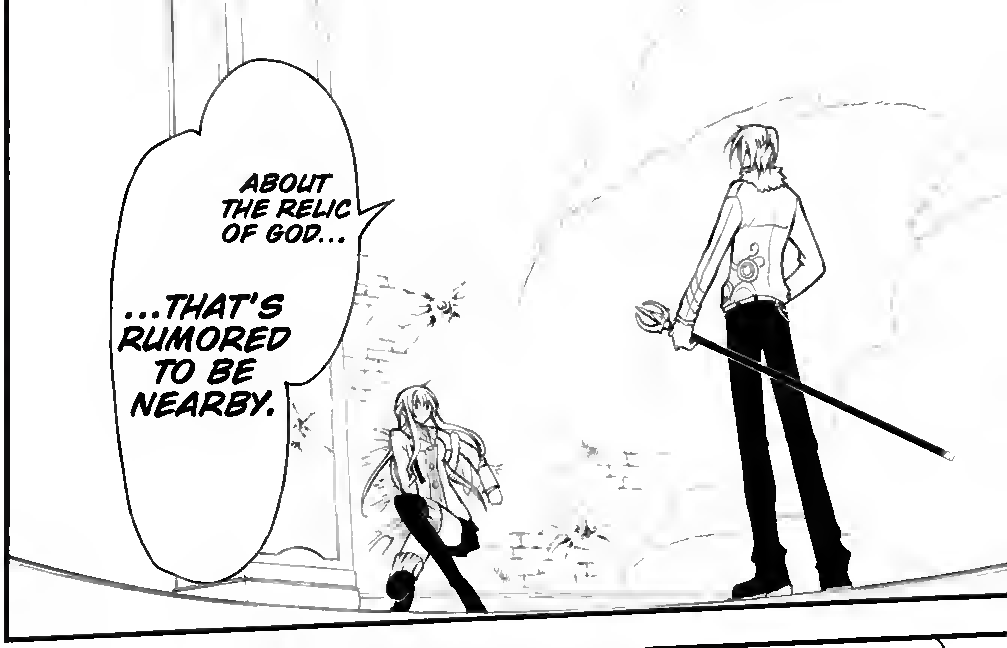

I THINK THIS...
...IS WHAT THEY CALL "HIGHWAY ROBBERY."

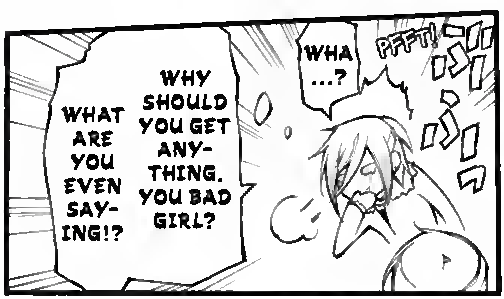
...YOU'RE DIS-HONEST.
WHICH MEANS ...
ギロ
GIRO (GLARE)


BA (LEAP)

HA ...!
PARI (SPLISH)

ZA (FINISH)
PAPERS: IMPERIAL EDICT
SUD-DEN SUM-MONS!
BIND ENEMY IMPE-RIAL EDICT!
AA (WHISH)
KO (TOK)
GACHI (STICK)
I'M STUCK TO THE WALL!
...
...YOU
...ASKED THAT DEMON, DIDN'T YOU?
ZAAAAA


ABOUT THE RELIC OF GOD...
...THAT'S RUMORED TO BE NEARBY.


WHAT ARE YOU EVEN SAY-ING!?
WHY SHOULD YOU GET ANY-THING. YOU BAD GIRL?
WHA ...?
PFFT!

...AND?
WHAT DO I GET OUT OF TELLING YOU?

...
PFF HEH HEH!
HIC!
HIC!
YOU'VE TICK-LED MY FUNNY BONE.
...YOU'RE KINDA FUNNY.

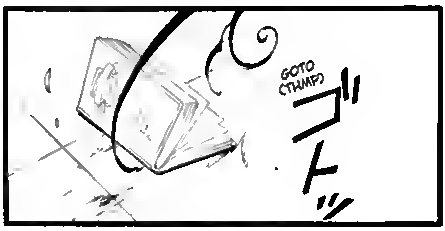
...HAS AS MUCH TO GAIN OUT OF FINDING THIS RELIC AS I DO.
SHIN CHUCKLE
WELL, TO BE HONEST...
...I DON'T THINK ANY-ONE...
WHAT YOU GET, HUH...?
WHAT YOU GET...

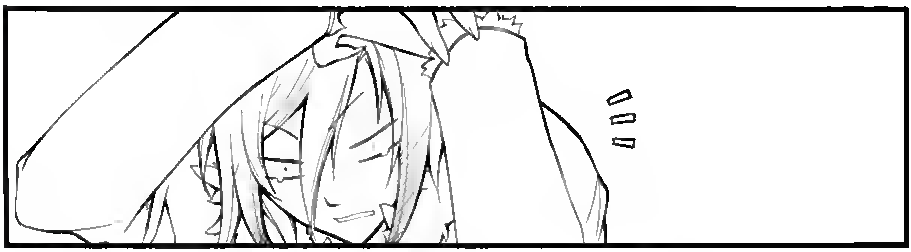
...I NEED TO ERASE THIS MIXED-RACE MARK...
...BEFORE THE CURSE ACTIVATES AND KILLS ME.
SEE...
!
HE'S A MIXED-RACE ANGEL TOO...!
—GIVEN HIS ATTITUDE...
EXCEPT THAT UNLIKE ME HE HASN'T UNDONE HIS CURSE YET.
...HE MUST ALREADY BE HAVING FITS— DEATH IS IMMINENT.
...ANY-WAY...
...I'M SORRY, BUT I'M OUTTA TIME.

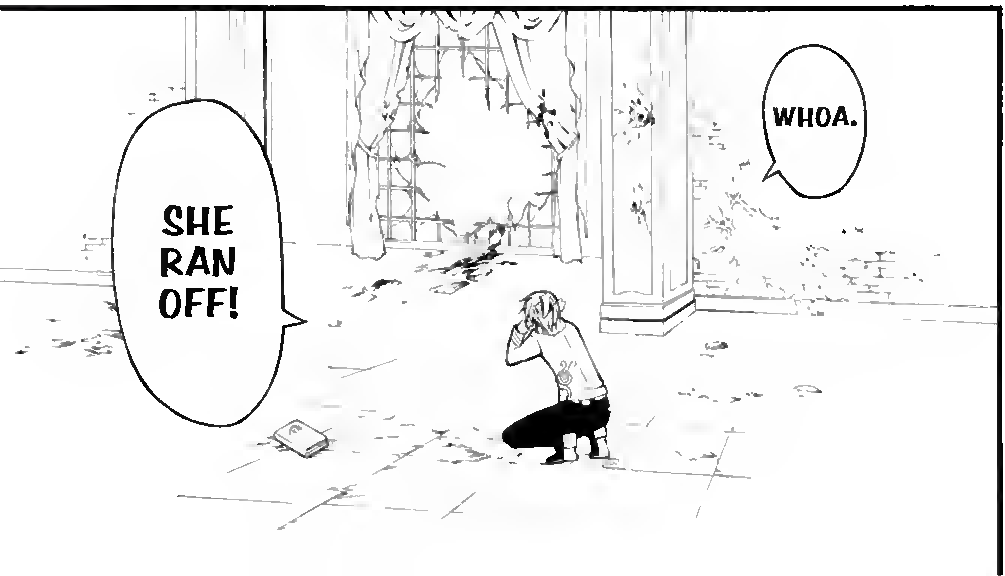
IF YOU'RE NOT GONNA TALK, I GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO KILL YOU OR FORCE AN ANSWER OUT OF YOU.
TSU (SHU)
...
...
UM
...
THREATEN ME IF YOU MUST, BUT...
WHICH
...
...DO YOU PREFER?
...
HUH
...?
"SQUISH"
...?
...WATCH WHERE YOU PUT YOUR HAND!
MUNI (SQUISH)

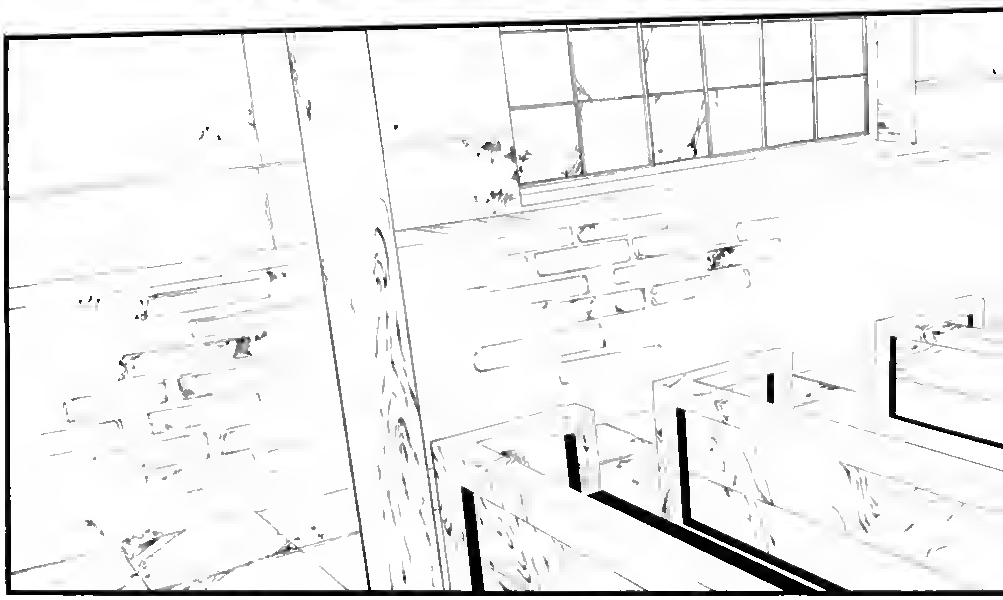
ZUKO (WHOOM!)

OW... UNH.


GOTO (THUMP)

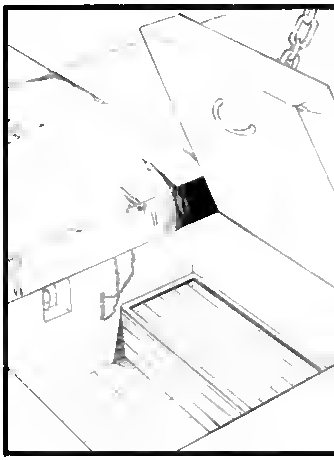



WHOA.
SHE RAN OFF!



KA
ACCORDING TO THAT DEMON, THE RELIC IS HIDDEN HERE.
KA

KA
CHU (SQUEAK)

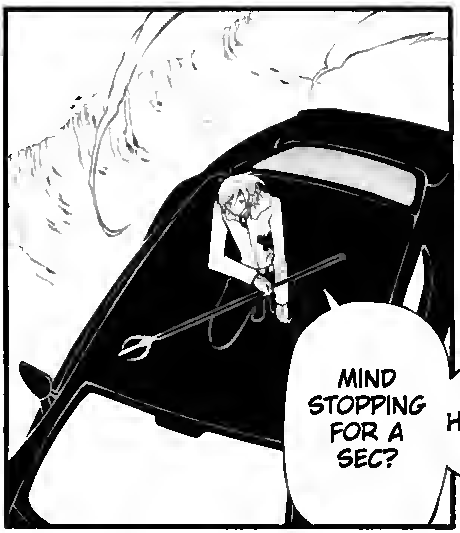


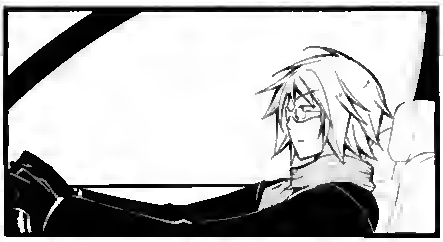
I CAN USE IT TO BARGAIN WITH EITHER DEMONS OR ANGELS.
MM.
IT'S PROBABLY UNRELATED TO THE "CRUSADE," BUT I DON'T CARE...
...IT MIGHT OFFER SOME CLUES FOR GETTING RID OF THIS NEW MARK.
GI (CREAK)
MORE IMPORTANTLY...
GI
NO FREAKIN' WAY!
I JUST MISSED IT BY A HAIR!?
HUH!?
WHA...? BUT I JUST GOT THAT INTEL!?
KARA (EMPTY)

GO
GO
GO
GO (RMBL)
DAM-MIT!
GO
GO
GO
GO
ARE YOU KIDDING ME!?
THE TRAP DOOR IS CLOSING!
GASHAN (SLAM)
...NH!
I'VE BEEN SHUT IN!!
GOGO
GO
GOGO
GATAN
GATA (TRMBL)

...OH... THERE'S A PEEP-HOLE.
RELIC OB-TAINED. I'M HEADING BACK.
SO SORRY, MISS.
BYE-BYE.
BUCHI (SNAP)
ドコ
DOO (BOOM)
...YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT TO BEGIN WITH!!
IF YOU'RE GONNA APOLOGIZE RIGHT AFTER...
WHEN I GET BACK, I'LL RECOMMEND GREEN-LIGHTING IT.
A MASS-PRODUCIBLE, SIMPLE SPELL-AMULET PROTO-TYPE...
...ONE THAT SEEMS SUF-FICIENTLY POWER-FUL.

ブロロロ
(VRMMM)


MIND STOPPING FOR A SEC?

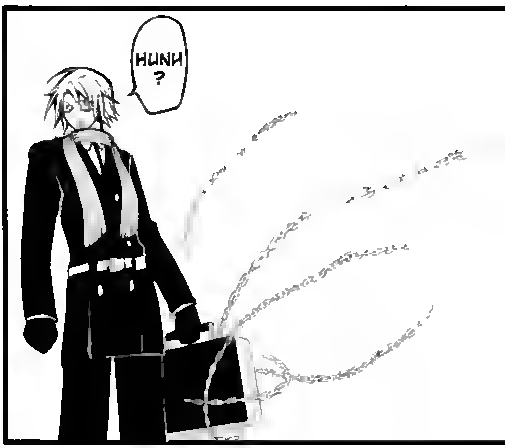


HEY.
KON
KON KONCKO
コン
コン

SU (SHP)

TCH.

DO (BLAM)
KUN (SHOOP)
...THAT DIDN'T SHAKE HIM...
K (SCREECH)
DO
SPELL: WARD
...INSIDE THAT BRIEF-CASE...
...IS THE RELIC YOU STOLE FROM THAT CHURCH, RIGHT?
...WHO ARE YOU?
.....
BAN (SLAM)

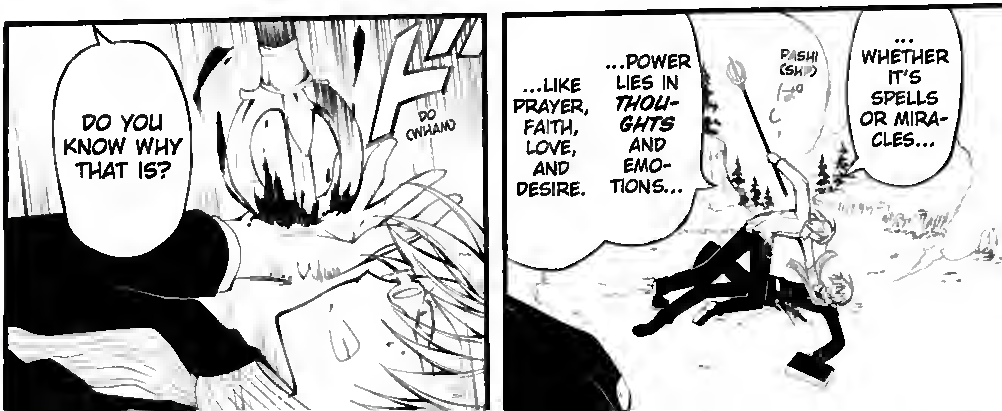


HAND: WIND

NOTE: A KAMAITACHI, OR "SICKLE WEASEL," IS A YOKAI WHO ATTACKS WITH SHARP, SICKLE-LIKE CLAWS.

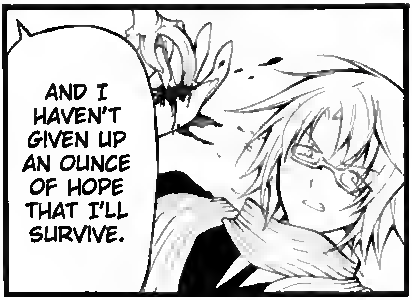
BUT WHEN IS COMES TO AGILITY, SEEMS I'M THE ONE WITH THE SUPERIOR SKILLS.
DO... (BLAM)
GORI (PRESS)
TCH!
SUD-DEN SUM-MONS!
N (BLAM)
PAPER: IMPERIAL EDICT
DAN (WHAM)
KUN (GHOOF)

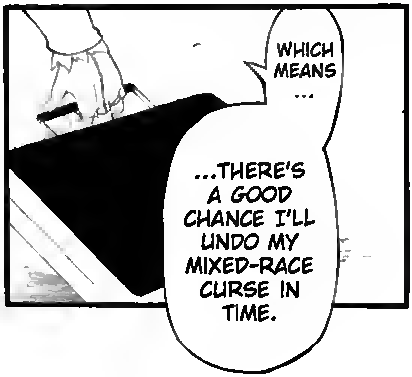
BITING BEAST, AID AND ABET!
GGH ...!
GABU (CHOMP)


DO YOU KNOW WHY THAT IS?
DO (WHAM)
...LIKE PRAYER, FAITH, LOVE, AND DESIRE.
...POWER LIES IN THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS...
PASHI (SHI)
... WHETHER IT'S SPELLS OR MIRACLES...

...EVEN A PREDE-TERMINED FATE.
...CAN BE A POWER-FUL ENOUGH POISON TO DERAIL AND ALTER...
'COS A SUPER-STRONG WILL...

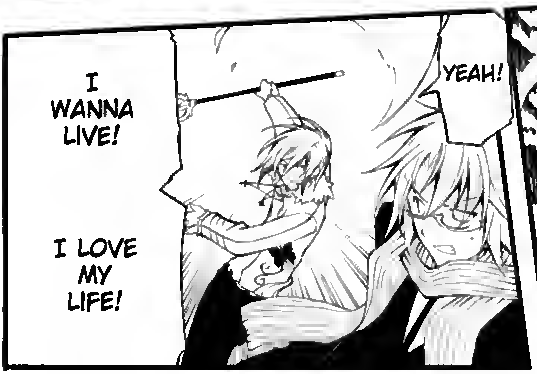
...IS A MIRACLE SUMMONED TO ME BY MY WILL!
THIS RELIC OF GOD...


AND I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP AN OUNCE OF HOPE THAT I'LL SURVIVE.


...THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE I'LL UNDO MY MIXED-RACE CURSE IN TIME.
WHICH MEANS ...

GA (KICK)
...RELIC ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHOSE...
GOTO (CLUNK)
...THIS ISN'T A GREAT TIME FOR YOU TO BE BUTTING IN, Y'KNOW.
I'M NORMALLY PRETTY LAID-BACK, BUT...
...YOU'RE STARTING TO PISS ME OFF.
AND MAKE ME CRY.
PAFU (POOMF)
UUH
DO I HAVE TO REMIND YOU TO QUIT GROPING MY CHEST!?

ZAAAAAA (FZZZM)
ARE YOU REALLY SUCH FOOLS?
THE SAME AMULET HE USED AT THE CHURCH...!
ZU (ZMM)
HMPH
DO (BOOM)


I WANNA LIVE!
I LOVE MY LIFE!
YEAH!

GA CHHAKO
th

YOU'RE GOING...
...DOWN !!
GO CHHAKO

SO BRING ME MORE MIRACLES!

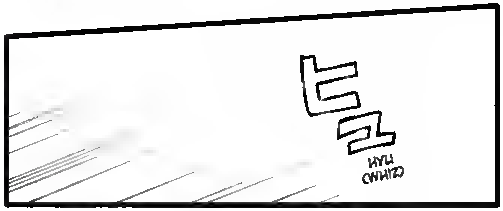
KA CHUNK
BORO (CRUMBLE)
I WON.
...WHEW.
I DID IT!
IT'S MINE!
HEH HEH...

DOKUN (BADUM)

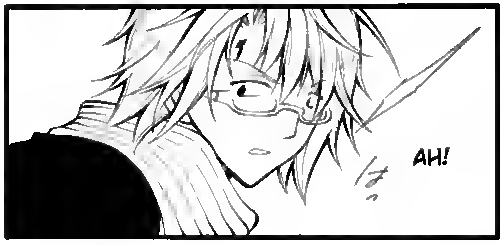
NOW YOU ARE GOING DOWN.

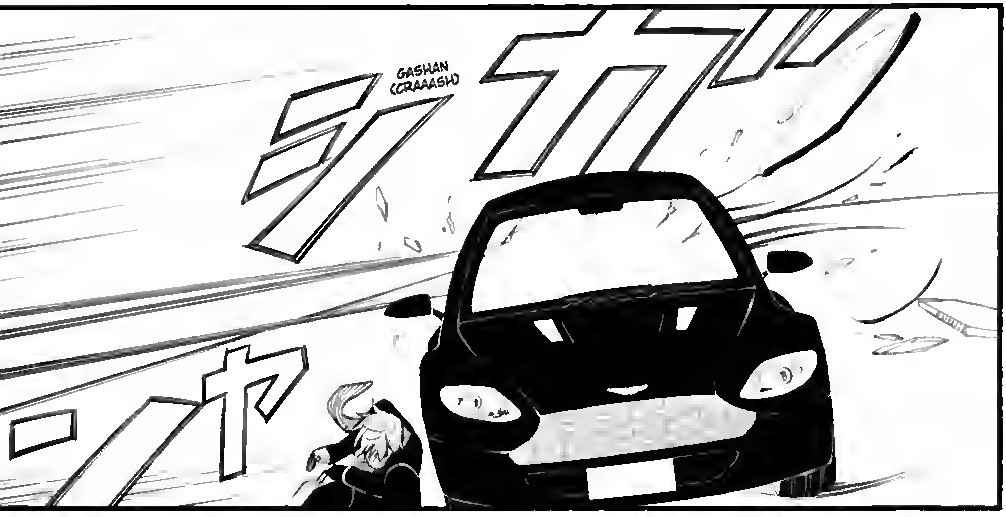
WAH!
GOTO (GLUNK)
GAH...
NOT... NOW!

DOKUN
DOKUN
DOKUN
THE MARK'S... ACTING UP...
...AND SO THE MIRACLE COMES TO AN END.


HYU
CHHIZO

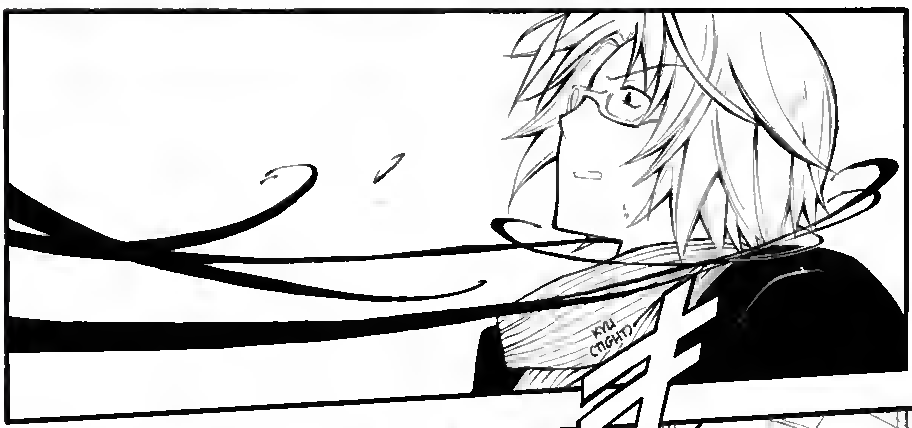
RECOV-
ERY
ACCOM-
PLISHED.


AH!


GASHAN
CCRAAASH!

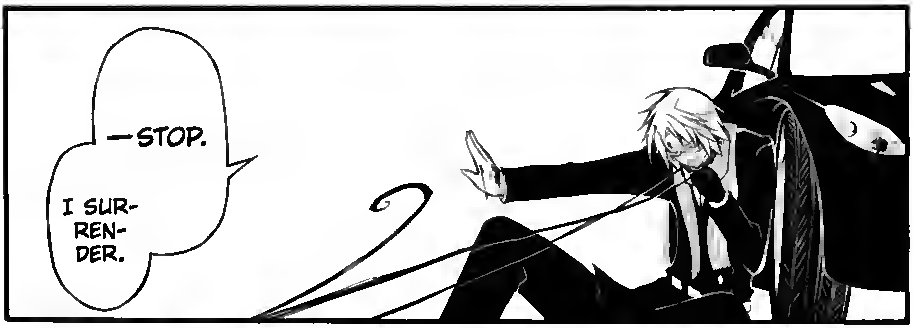
...YOU'RE "ARCANA," AREN'T YOU?

HEY...
KA (TAK)

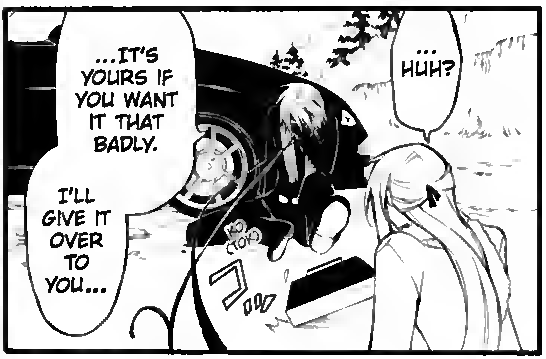

KYU (TIGHT)

BACK WHEN WE WERE TRYING TO RECOVER THE SECOND RELIC TOO...
...YOU GUYS JUST KEPT GETTING IN MY WAY.
GRIN (GRIND)
AH...
GAH!

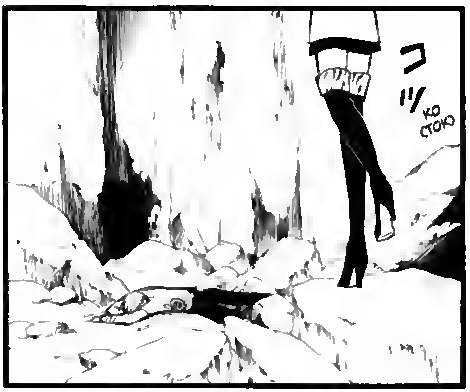
I ALSO HAVE TO THANK YOU FOR TRAPPING ME UNDER-GROUND JUST NOW...
...RIGHT?
...OH, THAT'S RIGHT.


—STOP.
I SUR-REN-DER.

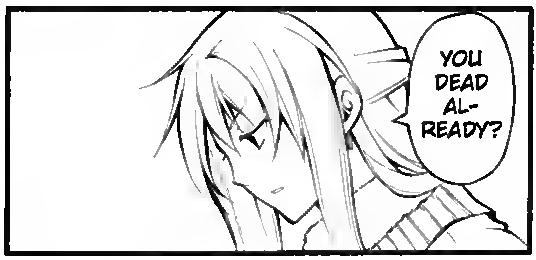
IT'S NOT AN IMPORTANT ENOUGH RELIC FOR ONE TO RISK ONE'S LIFE OVER... DON'T YOU THINK?

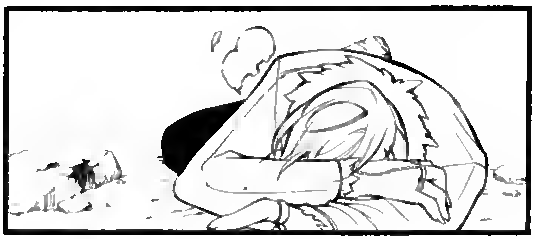

...IT'S YOURS IF YOU WANT IT THAT BADLY.
I'LL GIVE IT OVER TO YOU...
...HUH?

NOT FOR ARCANA...
...NOR FOR YOU.


コツ
KO OTO

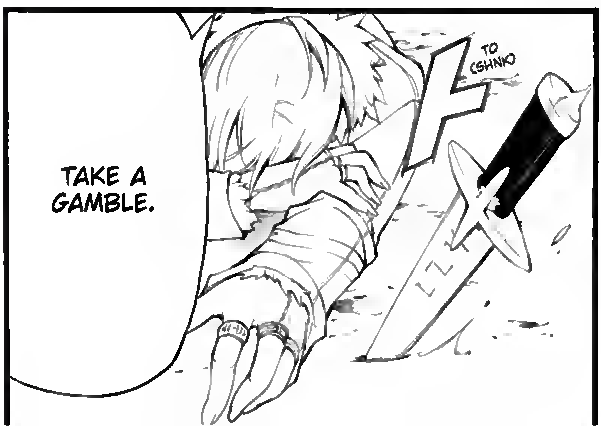
...NO, NOT YET.
KACHI CLICK
カチッ

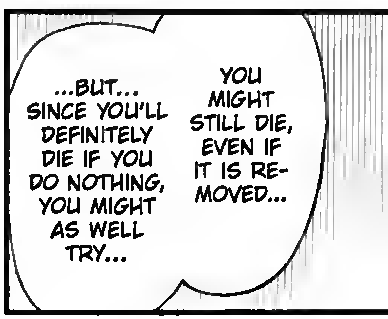

YOU DEAD AL-READY?



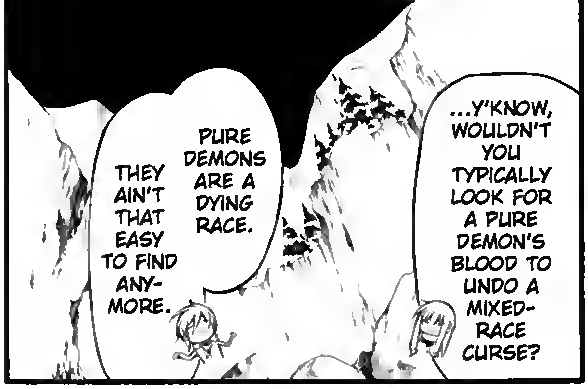
THE RELIC IS THIS KNIFE.
IT DOESN'T HOLD MUCH DIVINE POWER...
...AND IT'S NOT A RELIC TYPE I'M INTER-ESTED IN.
AND ...
...THERE'S NOT EVEN ENOUGH POWER TO UNDO YOUR CURSE.
—BUT...
...IF YOU WANT TO BE SAVED...

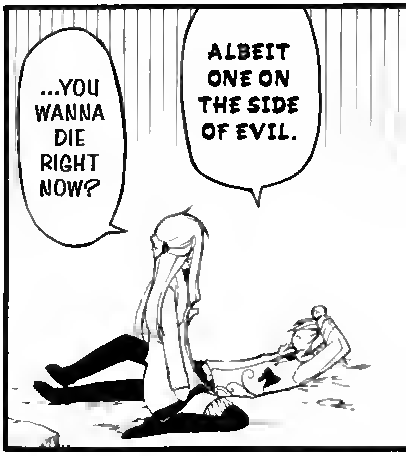
...USE IT...
...TO GOUGE OUT YOUR CURSE MARK.

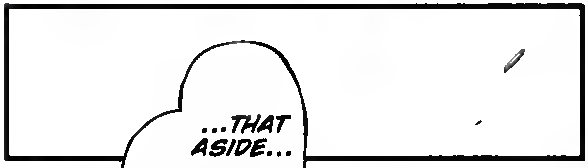

TAKE A GAMBLE.
TO (SHIN)O


...BUT... SINCE YOU'LL DEFINITELY DIE IF YOU DO NOTHING, YOU MIGHT AS WELL TRY...
YOU MIGHT STILL DIE, EVEN IF IT IS REMOVED...

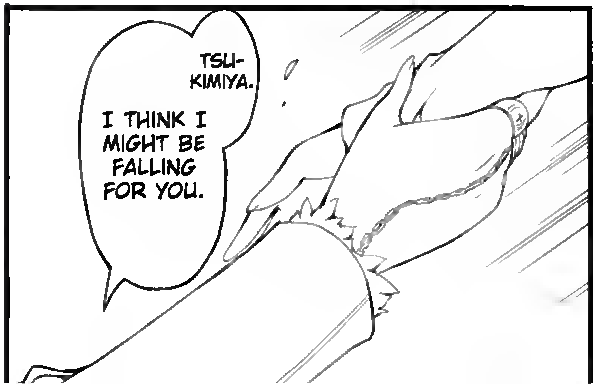
YOU...
...DON'T WANT TO DIE, DO YOU?
YOU'RE PERFECTLY FINE!
BASHI (SLAP)
CHUU (KISS)
DOTO (SLUMP)
HAAH... WELL, THE FIT FINALLY PASSED, SO...
...I'M NOT GONNA DIE JUST YET.
BUT FOR AN INSTANT...
...YOU LOOKED LIKE A GODDESS OF SALVATION.

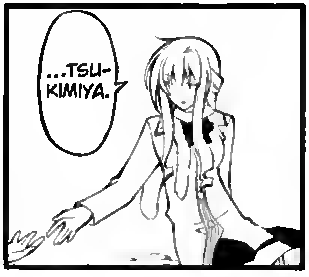

...Y'KNOW, WOULDN'T YOU TYPICALLY LOOK FOR A PURE DEMON'S BLOOD TO UNDO A MIXED-RACE CURSE?
PURE DEMONS ARE A DYING RACE.
THEY AIN'T THAT EASY TO FIND ANY-MORE.

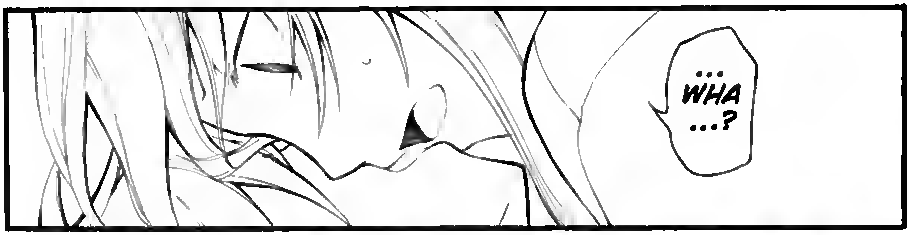

ALBEIT ONE ON THE SIDE OF EVIL.
...YOU WANNA DIE RIGHT NOW?

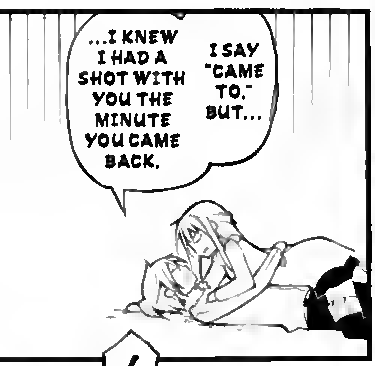


...THAT ASIDE...
...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MINE'S NAO.
I'M HALF-HUMAN.


TSU-KIMIYA.
I THINK I MIGHT BE FALLING FOR YOU.


...TSU-KIMIYA.

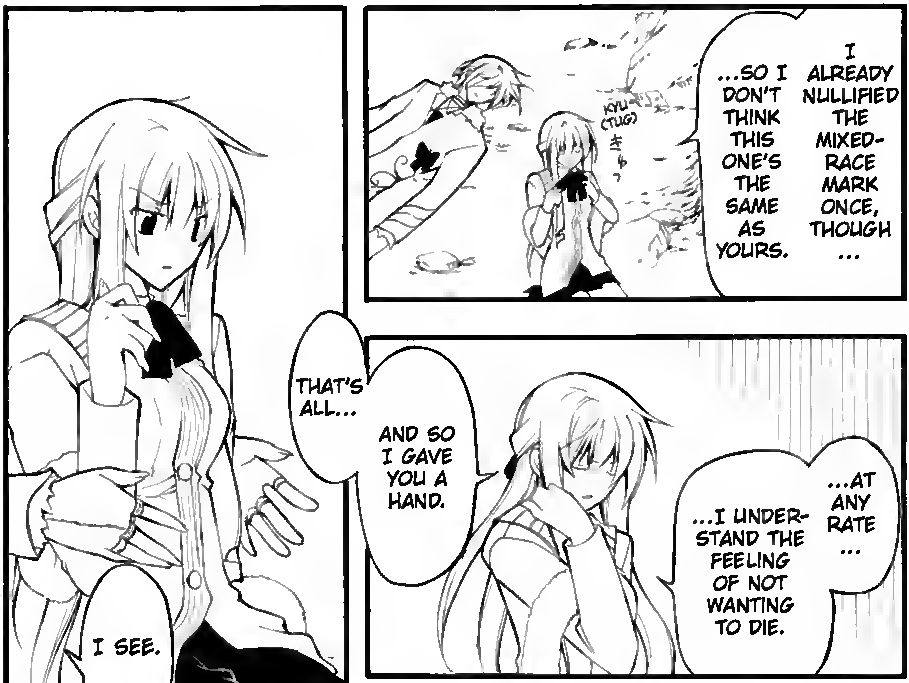

...
WHA
...?


...I KNEW I HAD A SHOT WITH YOU THE MINUTE YOU CAME BACK.
I SAY "CAME TO," BUT...

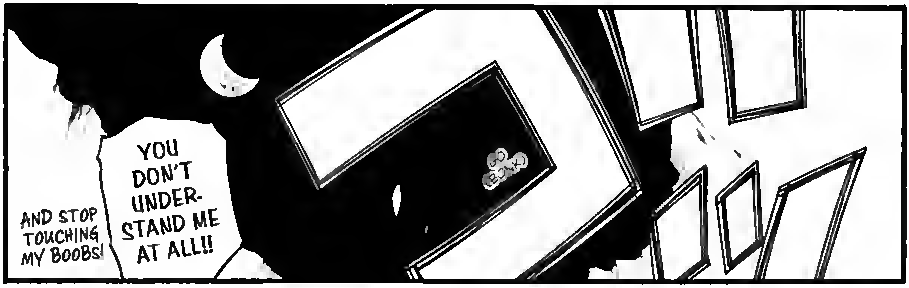
!
...
WHY, YOU...
GU (SHOVE)
OW!

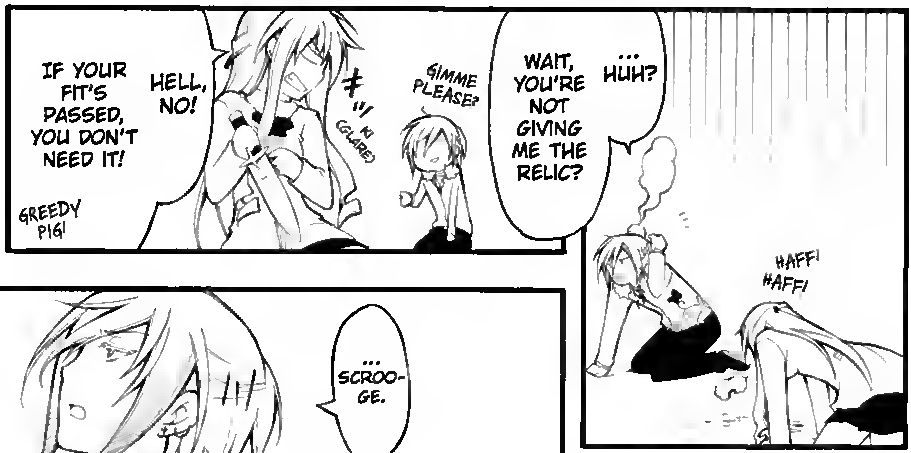
I'D LIKE IT...
...IF YOU CAME TO HAVE FEELINGS FOR ME TOO.

I'M MIXED-RACE TOO!
A MARK ...!


I ALREADY NULLIFIED THE MIXED-RACE MARK ONCE, THOUGH ...
...SO I DON'T THINK THIS ONE'S THE SAME AS YOURS.
KYU (TUG)
...AT ANY RATE ...
...I UNDERSTAND THE FEELING OF NOT WANTING TO DIE.
AND SO I GAVE YOU A HAND.
THAT'S ALL...
I SEE.

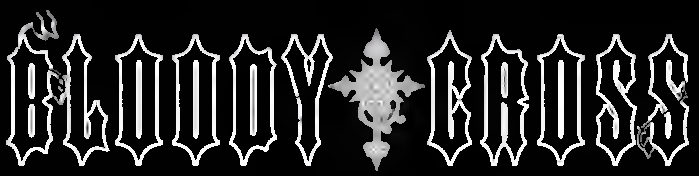
...HOW DEEPLY WE MIGHT SHARE AN UNDERSTANDING OF ONE ANOTHER FOR ETERNITY...
...AS FELLOW HALF-BREEDS.
SMACK BACK!
LET'S LIVE IN AN OCEANFRONT ESTATE AND HAVE NINE KIDS!
TAKE DOWN!
WHAT WORD COULD SHOW MORE CLEARLY ...


YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ME AT ALL!!
AND STOP TOUCHING MY BOOBS!


IF YOUR FIT'S PASSED, YOU DON'T NEED IT!
HELL, NO!
GREEDY PIG!
≠ !!! (GLARE)
GIMME PLEASE?
WAIT, YOU'RE NOT GIVING ME THE RELIC?
... HUH?
HAFF! HAFF!

... SCROOGE.

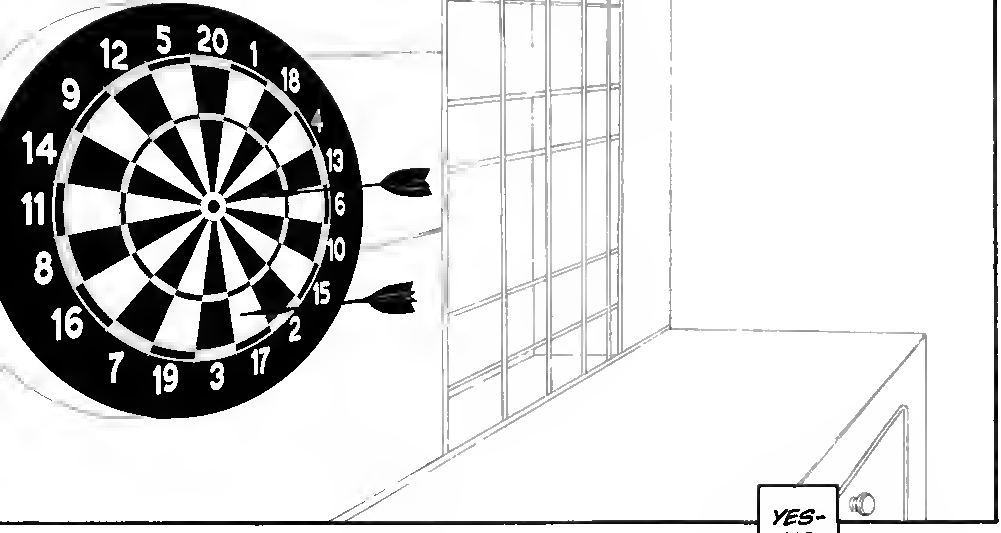
YOUR JUGS ARE AS JUICY AS EVER!
WE'RE FELLOW HALF-BREEDS
...GIVING ME FLASHES OF BAD DÉJÀ VU.
.....HE'S...
TAKE CARE!
...WELP. BYE!
KURU (TURN)
FEELING NAUSEOUS
—...
TSUKI-MIYA, HUH?
WHAT AN INTER-ESTING GIRL.

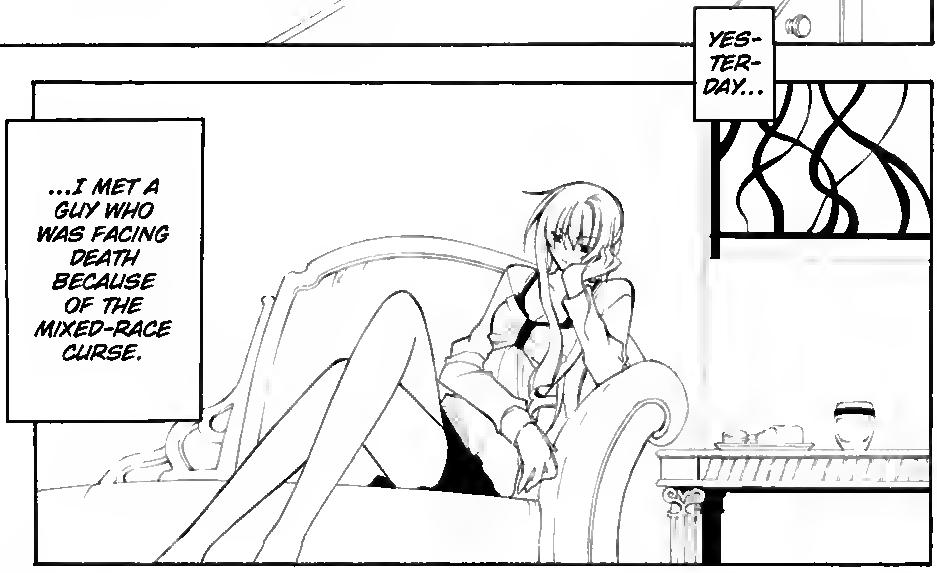

BLOODY CROSS

BLOODY CROSS

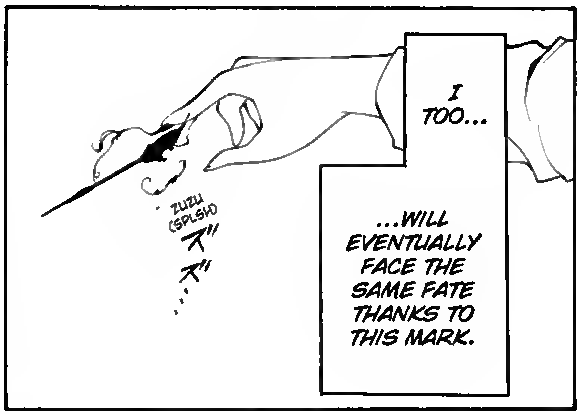
Chapter 12
Bloodletting

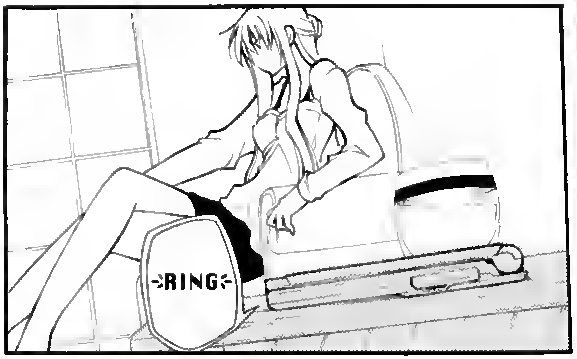
BLOODY CROSS

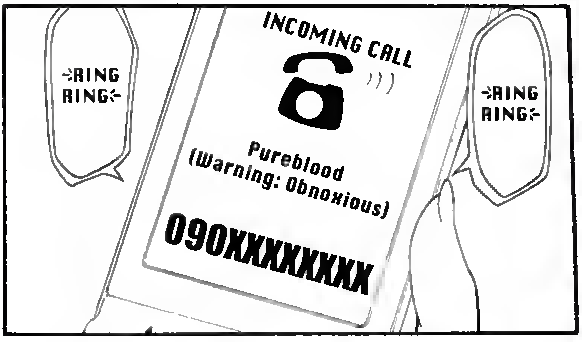

12 5 20 1 18 4 13 6 10 15 2 17 3 19 7 16 8 11 14 9


YES-TER-DAY...
...I MET A GUY WHO WAS FACING DEATH BECAUSE OF THE MIXED-RACE CURSE.

BUT BEFORE THAT...

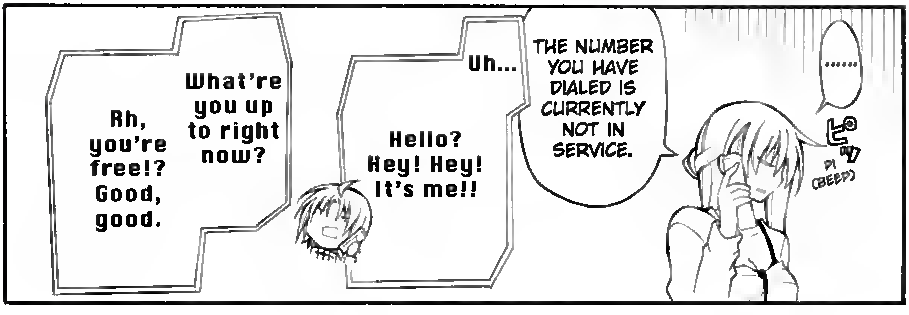

I TOO...
...WILL EVENTUALLY FACE THE SAME FATE THANKS TO THIS MARK.
ZUZU (SPLSH)


RING

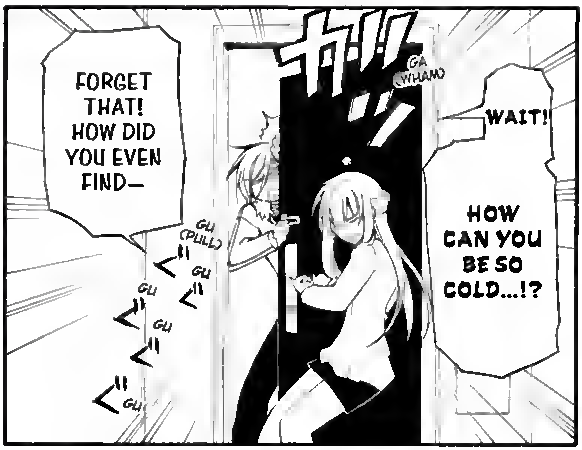

RING RING
INCOMING CALL
Pureblood
(Warning: Obnoxious)
090XXXXXXXX
RING RING

RING RING
RING RING

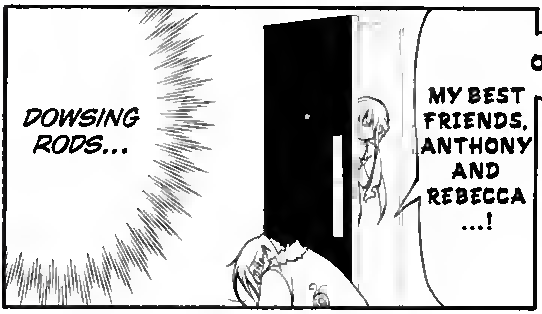
TAN (TOK)
5
1
18
19
3
17

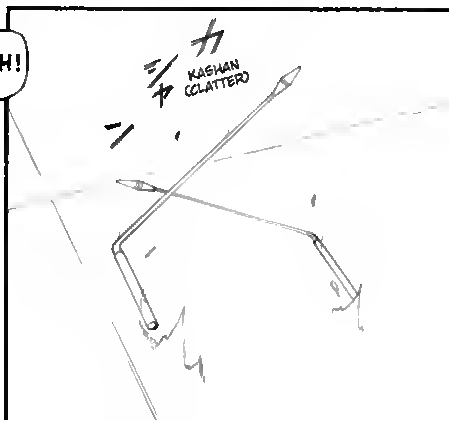

Rh, you're free!? Good, good.
What're you up to right now?
Uh...
Hello? Hey! Hey! It's me!!
THE NUMBER YOU HAVE DIALED IS CURRENTLY NOT IN SERVICE.
.....
PI (BEEP)

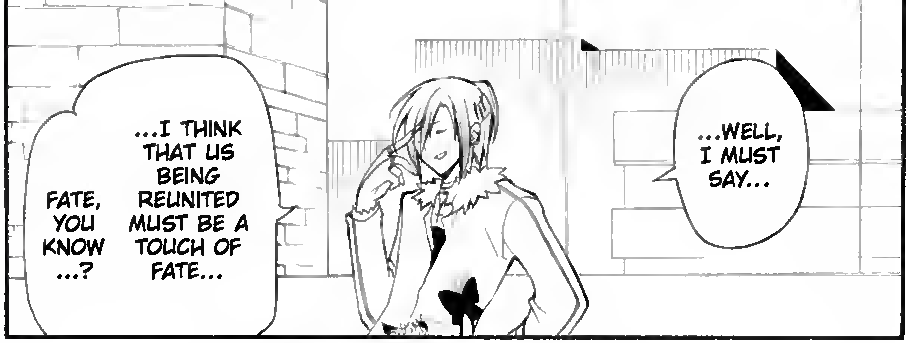
I'm heading over.
EH?
WHOA, HOLO IT!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK—
BUTSU (CLICK)
DON'T COME! I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING MORE ANNOYING!
TSUUU (BOOOP)
TSUUU
TSUUU
PINPOOON (DING-DONG)
THAT WAS FAST!
HEY!
THERE'S RUDE, AND THEN THERE'S RU—

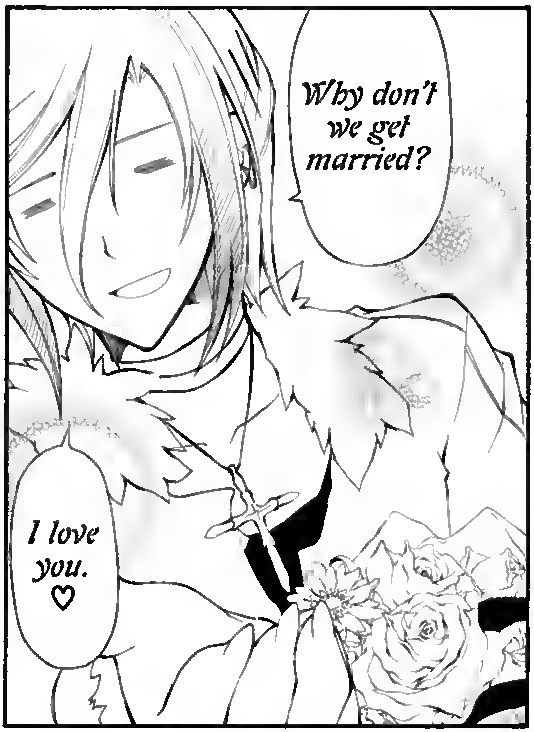

FORGET THAT! HOW DID YOU EVEN FIND—
GU (PULL)
GU
GU
GU
GU
GA (WHAM)
WAIT!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO COLD...!?

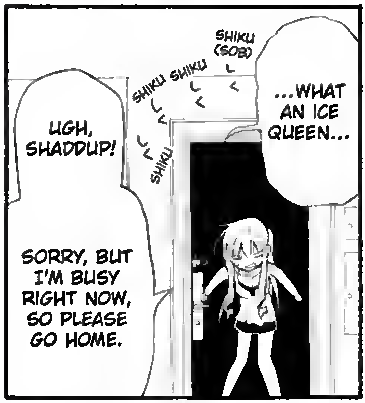
KII (CREAK)
キィ・・・


DOWSING RODS...
OH! MY BEST FRIENDS, ANTHONY AND REBECCA ...!

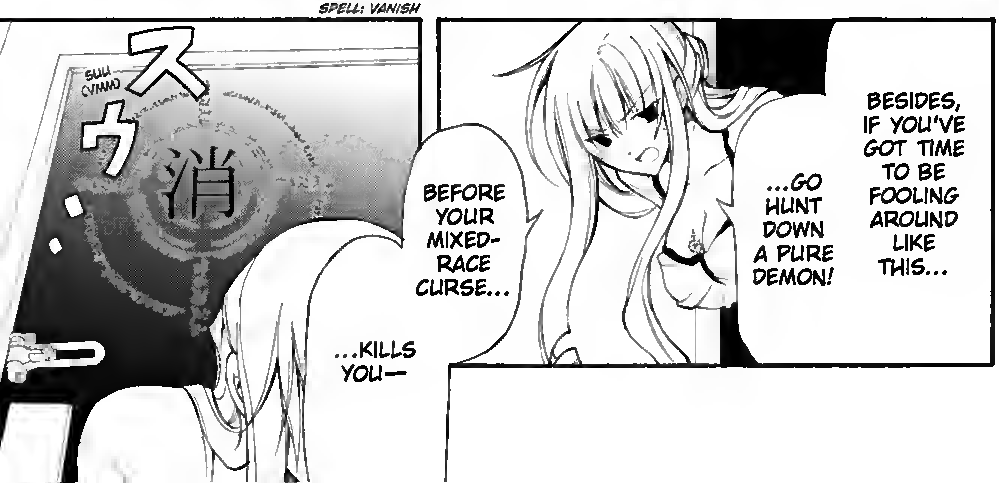

KASHAN (CLATTER)

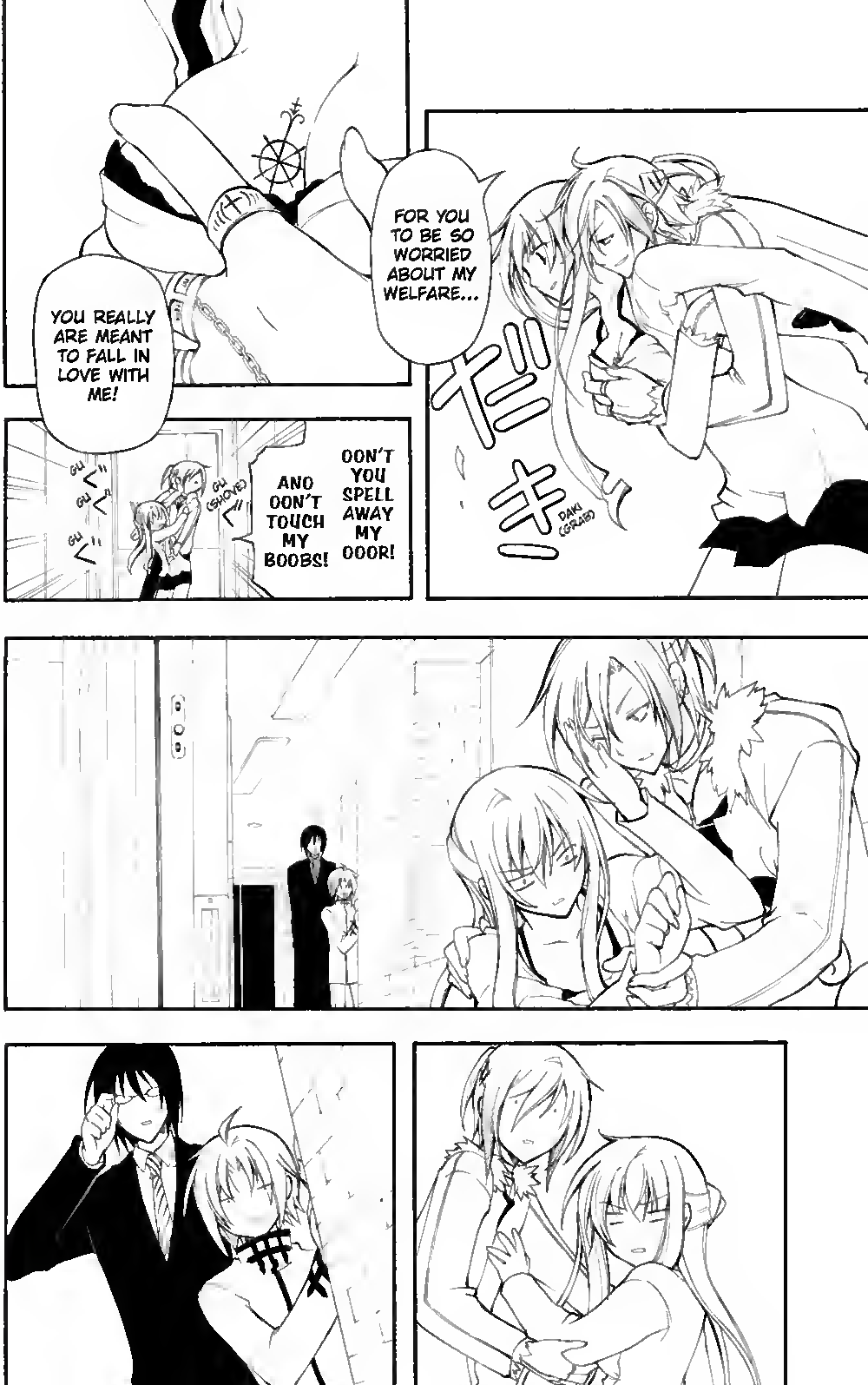




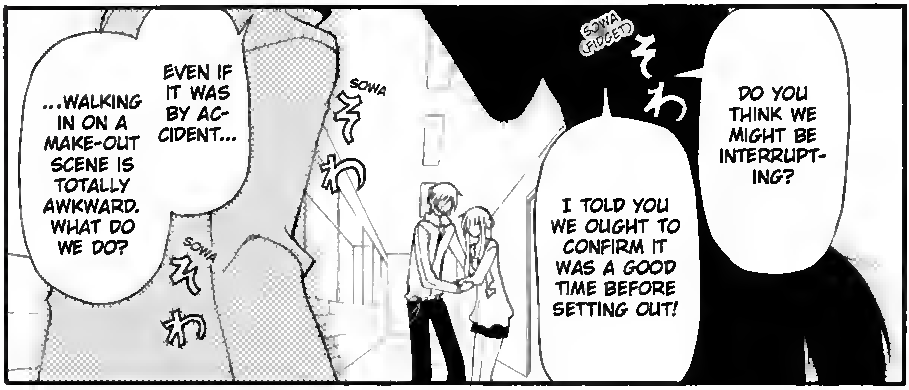


SPELL: VANISH


スウ・消
SUU (VANI)
BEFORE YOUR MIXED-RACE CURSE...
...KILLS YOU—
...GO HUNT DOWN A PURE DEMON!
BESIDES, IF YOU'VE GOT TIME TO BE FOOLING AROUND LIKE THIS...

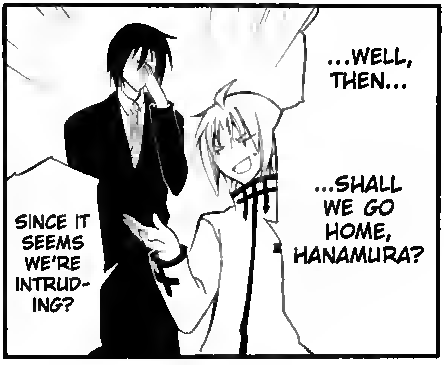

YOU REALLY ARE MEANT TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ME!
FOR YOU TO BE SO WORRIED ABOUT MY WELFARE...
DAKI (GRAB)
GU
GU
GU
GU (SHOVE)
ANO OON'T TOUCH MY BOOBS!
OON'T YOU SPELL AWAY MY OOOR!

...HEY...
...THAT'S A NEW GUY.
HISO (WHISPER)
ヒソ
YOUNG PEOPLE CERTAINLY ARE QUICK TO SWITCH ALLEGIANCES.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD PICK UP THE HABIT.
HISO
ヒソ

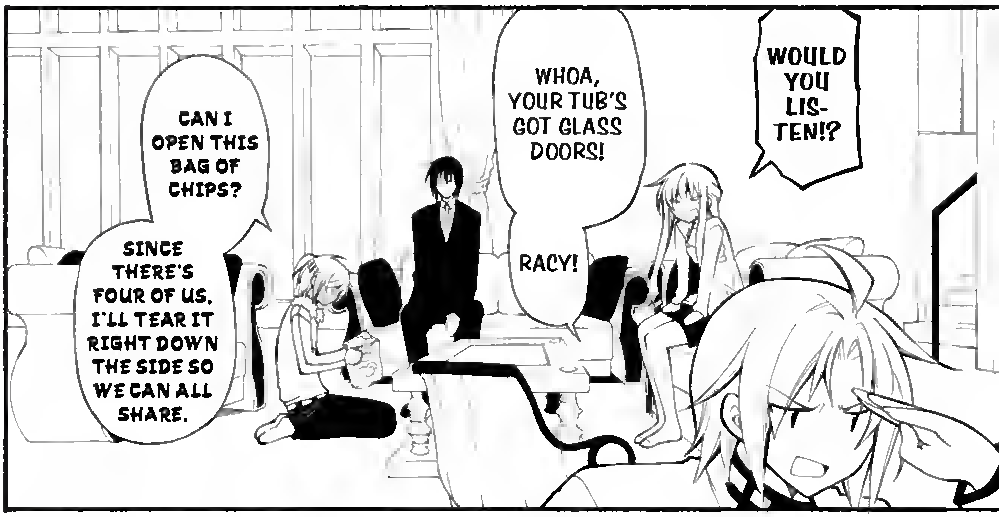

DO YOU THINK WE MIGHT BE INTERRUPTING?
SOWA (FACE)
そわ
I TOLD YOU WE OUGHT TO CONFIRM IT WAS A GOOD TIME BEFORE SETTING OUT!
SOWA
そわ
EVEN IF IT WAS BY ACCIDENT...
...WALKING IN ON A MAKE-OUT SCENE IS TOTALLY AWKWARD. WHAT DO WE DO?
SOWA

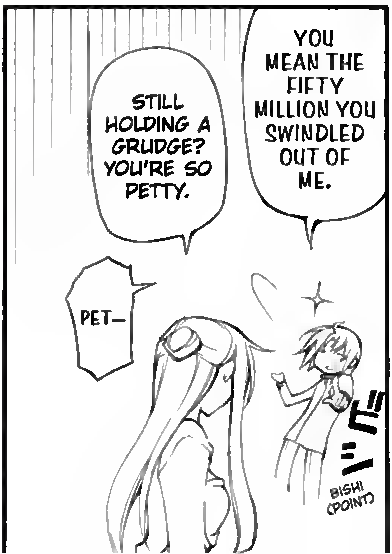
I'LL BE BACK!
CARRY ON.
OUR BUSINESS CAN WAIT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO!
NO, NO!
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!

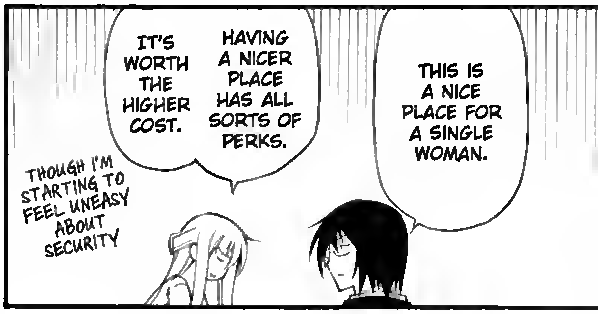
AHEM.
AHEM-HEM.
GOHO (KOFF)
ゴホっ

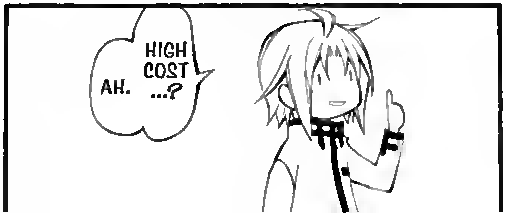

...WELL, THEN...
...SHALL WE GO HOME, HANAMURA?
SINCE IT SEEMS WE'RE INTRUDING?

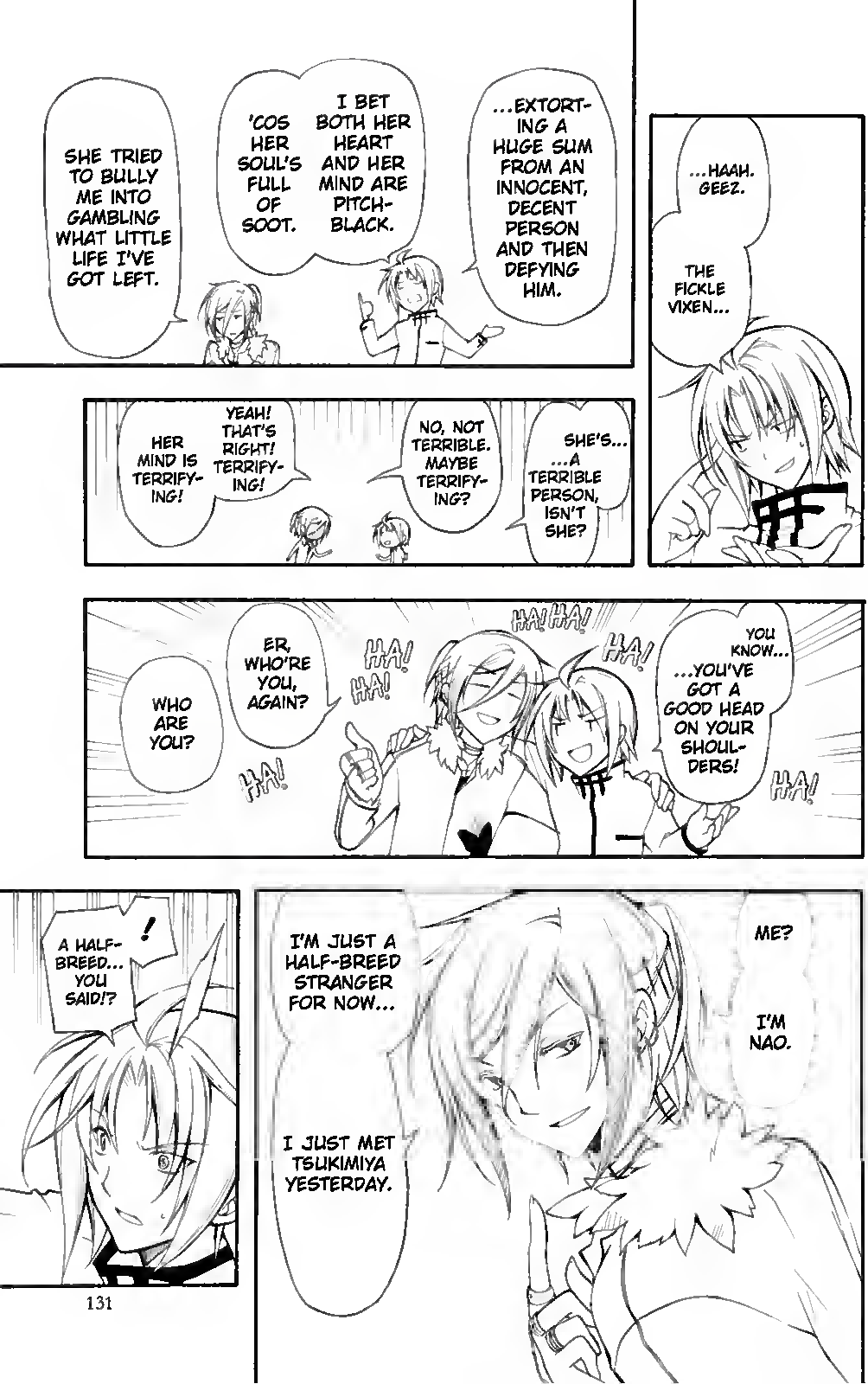
WHEN WE'RE DONE TALKING, I EXPECT YOU TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY, ALL OF YOU...
...UHH... I'VE LET YOU IN, BUT THERE WON'T BE ANY TEA.


CAN I OPEN THIS BAG OF CHIPS?
SINCE THERE'S FOUR OF US, I'LL TEAR IT RIGHT DOWN THE SIDE SO WE CAN ALL SHARE.
WHOA, YOUR TUB'S GOT GLASS DOORS!
RACY!
WOULD YOU LIS-TEN!?

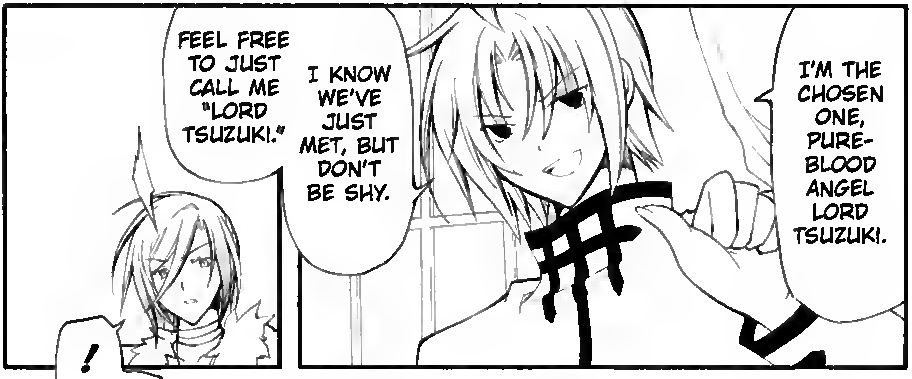

YOU MEAN THE FIFTY MILLION YOU SWINDLED OUT OF ME.
STILL HOLDING A GRUDGE? YOU'RE SO PETTY.
PET—
BISHI (POINT)

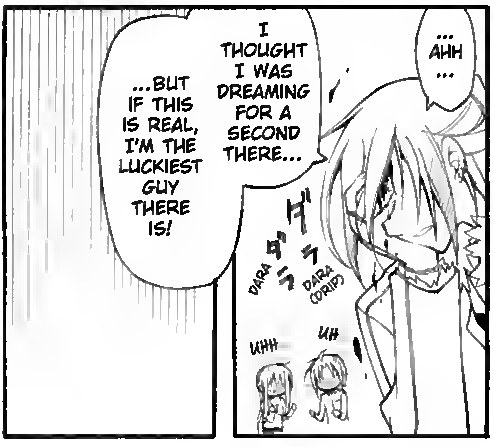

THIS IS A NICE PLACE FOR A SINGLE WOMAN.
HAVING A NICER PLACE HAS ALL SORTS OF PERKS.
IT'S WORTH THE HIGHER COST.
THOUGH I'M STARTING TO FEEL UNEASY ABOUT SECURITY


AH.
HIGH COST ...?


SHE TRIED TO BULLY ME INTO GAMBLING WHAT LITTLE LIFE I'VE GOT LEFT.
'COS HER SOUL'S FULL OF SOOT.
I BET BOTH HER HEART AND HER MIND ARE PITCH-BLACK.
...EXTORTING A HUGE SUM FROM AN INNOCENT, DECENT PERSON AND THEN DEFYING HIM.
...HAAH. GEEZ.
THE FICKLE VIXEN...
HER MIND IS TERRIFYING!
YEAH! THAT'S RIGHT! TERRIFYING!
NO, NOT TERRIBLE. MAYBE TERRIFYING?
SHE'S... ...A TERRIBLE PERSON, ISN'T SHE?
WHO ARE YOU?
ER, WHO'RE YOU, AGAIN?
HA! HA!
HA! HA!
HA!
YOU KNOW... ...YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEAD ON YOUR SHOULDERS!
HA!
A HALF-BREED... YOU SAID!?
!
I'M JUST A HALF-BREED STRANGER FOR NOW...
I JUST MET TSUKIMIYA YESTERDAY.
ME?
I'M NAO.

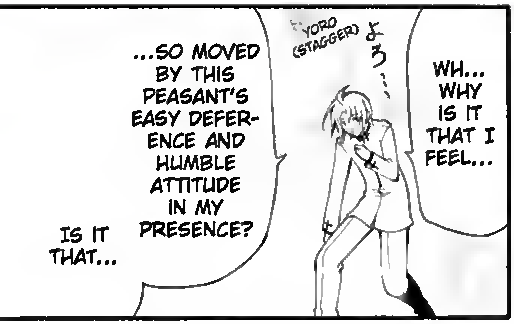
A HALF-BREED JUST LIKE YOUR EX...?
PON (PAT)
ぽん
YOU DO HAVE BAGGAGE.
I'M STARTING TO GET ANNOYED THAT I HAVE TO KEEP SAYING THIS, BUT...
...HE WASN'T MY EX AND THIS GUY'S NOT MY NEW BOY-FRIEND.


I'M THE CHOSEN ONE, PURE-BLOOD ANGEL LORD TSUZUKI.
I KNOW WE'VE JUST MET, BUT DON'T BE SHY.
FEEL FREE TO JUST CALL ME "LORD TSUZUKI."
!
PURE-BLOOD ...!?

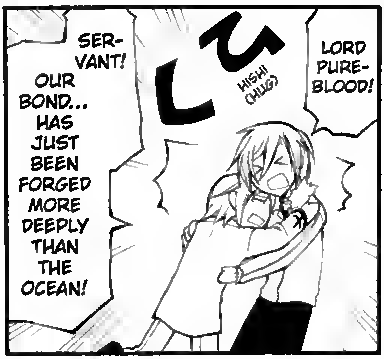

...AHH...
I THOUGHT I WAS DREAMING FOR A SECOND THERE...
...BUT IF THIS IS REAL, I'M THE LUCKIEST GUY THERE IS!
DARA
DARA (DRIP)
UHH
UH

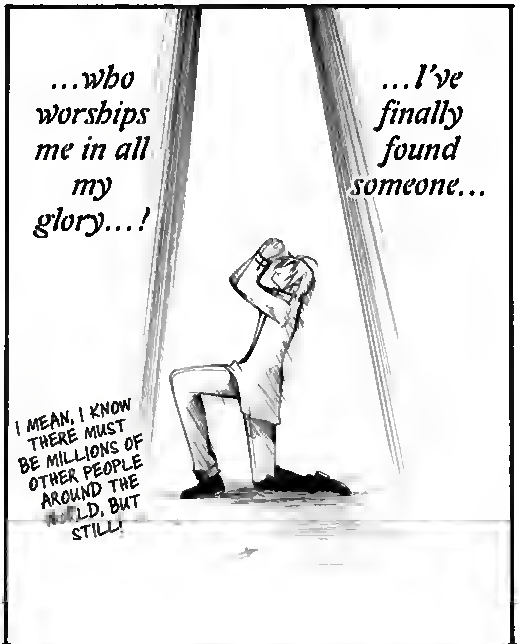
GO (HAAND)
GYO (SHOCK)

I NEVER IMAG-INED...
...I'D MEET ANYONE SO NOBLE AS A PUREBLOOD ANGEL BEFORE I DIE.

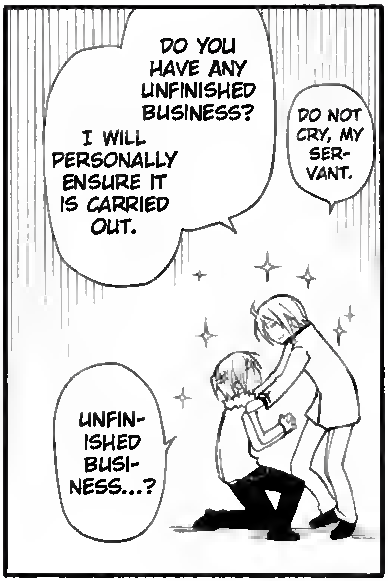

WH... WHY IS IT THAT I FEEL...
YORO (STAGGER)
よろ...
...SO MOVED BY THIS PEASANT'S EASY DEFER-ENCE AND HUMBLE ATTITUDE IN MY PRESENCE?
IS IT THAT...

Ohh...!
BOKUNN (THUNGE)
WHA...!?


LORD PURE-BLOOD!
HISHI (HUG)
SER-VANT! OUR BOND... HAS JUST BEEN FORGED MORE DEEPLY THAN THE OCEAN!

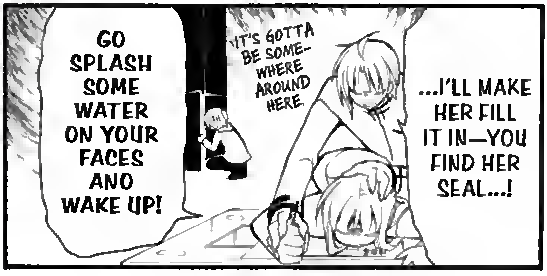

...who worships me in all my glory...!
...I've finally found someone...
I MEAN, I KNOW THERE MUST BE MILLIONS OF OTHER PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD, BUT STILL!

IN-DEED...
...BUT...
...WHAT A CRUEL DISAP-POINT-MENT.


DO YOU HAVE ANY UNFINISHED BUSINESS?
I WILL PERSONALLY ENSURE IT IS CARRIED OUT.
DO NOT CRY, MY SER-VANT.
UNFIN-ISHED BUSI-NESS...?

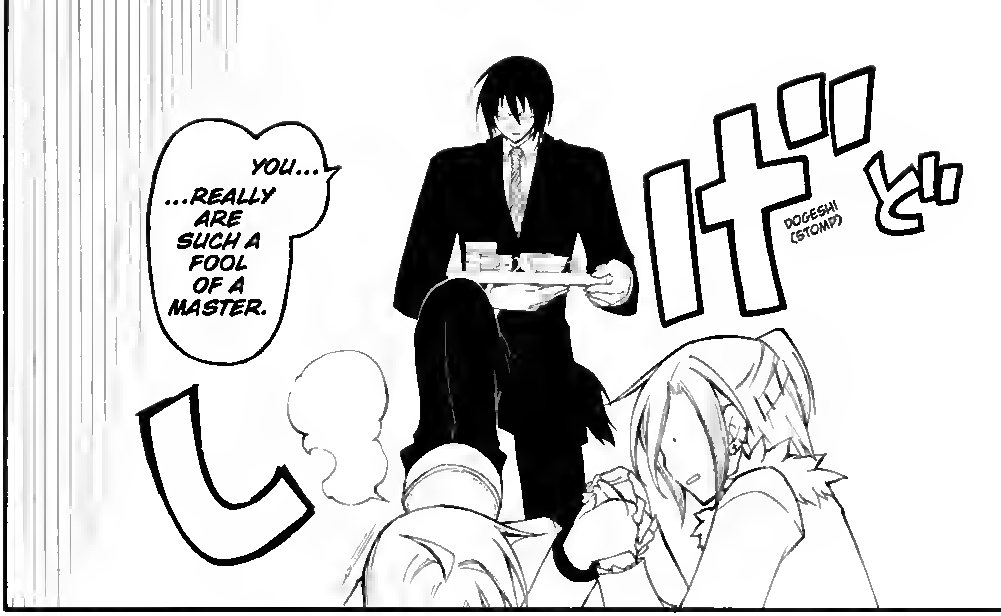
I...
...WILL DIE IF I CANNOT UNDO MY MIXED-RACE CURSE.
SO WE MAY NEVER GET TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, SIR PUREBLOOD.
SER-VANT ...

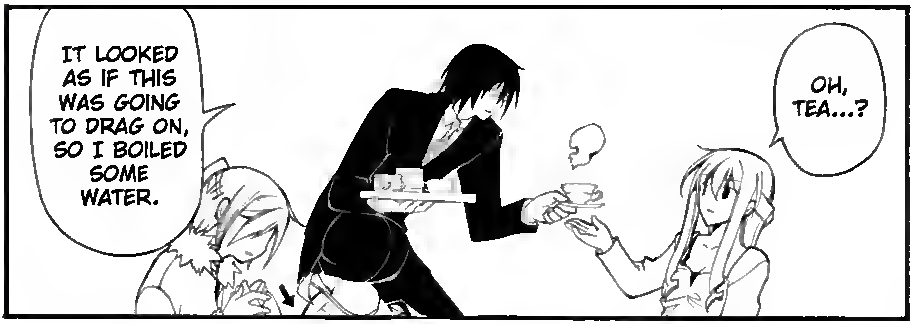
WELL, AS IT HAPPENS ...
...I CAME HERE TODAY TO MARRY TSUKIMIYA.
HEY! WHY CAN'T YOU DO THAT MUCH FOR HIM!?
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? IT'S JUST AN "X" MARKED OFF ON YOUR FAMILY REGISTER!!

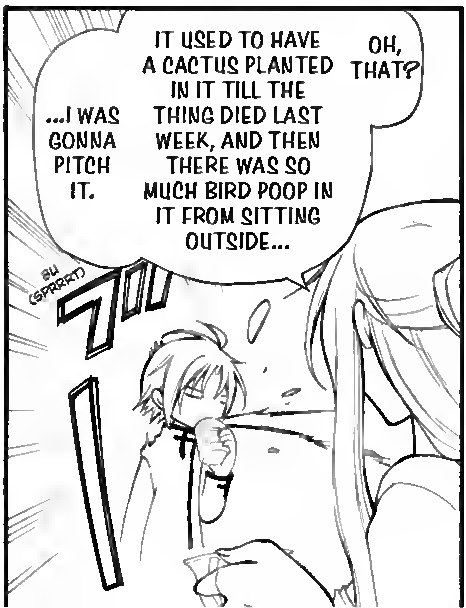

GO SPLASH SOME WATER ON YOUR FACES AND WAKE UP!
IT'S GOTTA BE SOME-WHERE AROUND HERE
...I'LL MAKE HER FILL IT IN—YOU FIND HER SEAL...!

MARRIAGE APPLICATION
BAN (SEAL)
ばん

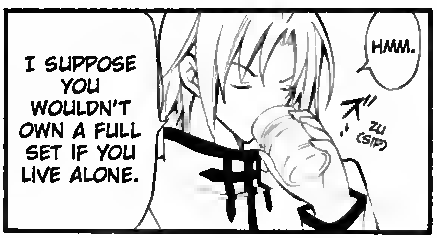
MIXED-RACE CURSE, HUH...?
MIXED-RACE...
IT WOULD PROBABLY BE QUICKER FOR ME TO JUST UNDO IT...
...LIKE I DID FOR THE OTHER TWO HALF-BREEDS...
...BUT I CAN'T REALLY JUSTIFY USING UP MORE OF THE FIRST RELIC'S POWER...
DARN, I'D RATHER HAVE USED IT TO SAVE YOU INSTEAD OF THAT ABSOLUTELY DESPICABLE PAIR
THANK YOU, SIR PURE-BLOOD.
SUCH GRACIOUS, COMFORTING THOUGHTS ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH.
You fool! I...
...I cannot believe this is good-bye!
Very well...
...I will give you four-fifths of my wealth...
Use it...
...to enjoy what little is left of your short life to the full...


YOU...
...REALLY ARE SUCH A FOOL OF A MASTER.
ポゲシ (STOMP)
ど
し


IT LOOKED AS IF THIS WAS GOING TO DRAG ON, SO I BOILED SOME WATER.
OH, TEA...?


OH, THAT?
IT USED TO HAVE A CACTUS PLANTED IN IT TILL THE THING DIED LAST WEEK, AND THEN THERE WAS SO MUCH BIRD POOP IN IT FROM SITTING OUTSIDE...
...I WAS GONNA PITCH IT.
ZU (SPRRRT)
ブ
ー

...MINE SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY NON-TEACUP...
MU (TIRK)


I SUPPOSE YOU WOULDN'T OWN A FULL SET IF YOU LIVE ALONE.
HMM.
ZU (SIP)

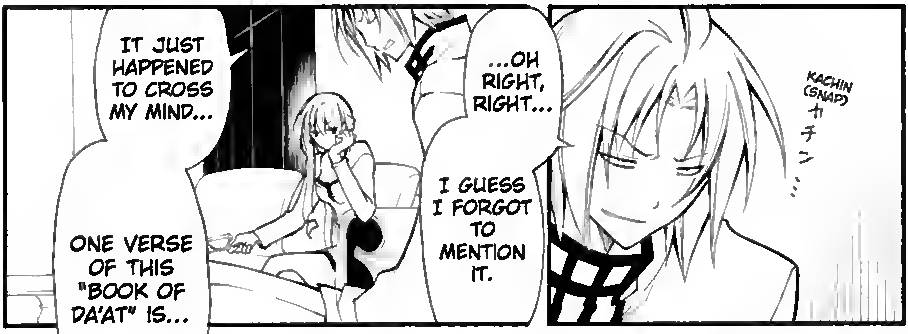
—SO?
KACHA CHAKO
THE CONVERSATION'S GOTTEN OFF TOPIC, BUT YOU SAID YOU HAD BUSINESS?
SORRY, BUT COULD YOU EITHER LEAVE OR STEP OUTSIDE?
NO, NO.
IT'S OKAY. HE CAN STAY.
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE TIES TO SATSUKI...
...AND I COULD ALWAYS USE MORE HANDS.
I MEAN TO MAKE USE OF HIM TOO.
WORK? THAT'LL BE A BLAST.
WHA...?
IT AIN'T EVERY DAY YOU GET OFFERED SUCH A FUN-SOUNDING JOB.
...HANAMURA.

THIS IS GOD'S PROPHECY BOOK—THE BOOK OF DA'AT—THAT APPEARED THE OTHER DAY.
THE COVER HERE IS AN APPROXIMATION TAKEN FROM AN ANCIENT SCROLL.
THE FALLEN ANGEL HAS IT.
AND?
HERE.
11
...MOREOVER...
...STARTING FROM A FEW DAYS AGO.
TSUZUKI HAS BEEN SENSING THE OUTPOURING OF THIS BOOK'S POWER...
...IT'S BEEN GIVING OFF...
...AN UNCOMMONLY WARPED AURA FOR A HOLY RELIC...

I'M TELLING YOU ALL THIS 'COS I SUSPECT SOMETHING FISHY'S GOING ON.
IT JUST FEELS OFF...
.....
MAYBE THE FALLEN ANGEL DEFILED IT AND IS GOING AROUND USING IT?
BUT THIS TIME, HE AND HIS ALLIES...
...OUR OPPONENTS ONLY ACTED WHEN THE FIRST AND SECOND RELICS APPEARED... AS PART OF THE CRUSADE.
...WHAT'S STRANGE IS THAT UP UNTIL NOW...
...ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF INCREASED ACTIVITY...
...EVEN THOUGH THE THIRD RELIC WON'T SHOW UP ANYTIME SOON.
...HMM.
SO... HOW EXACT-LY...

...IS ANY OF THIS RELEVANT TO ME?

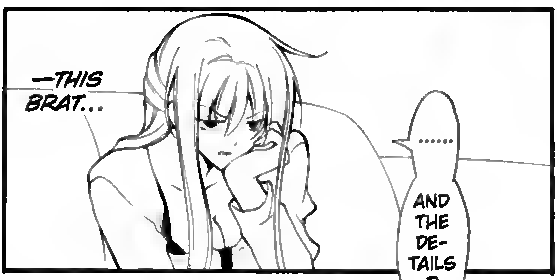
IT ISN'T TIME FOR THE THIRD RELIC, RIGHT?
IF THERE AREN'T ANY NEW RELICS EMERGING...
...AND IT DOESN'T INVOLVE MY MARK...
...I'D RATHER YOU TOOK CARE OF THIS YOURSELVES.

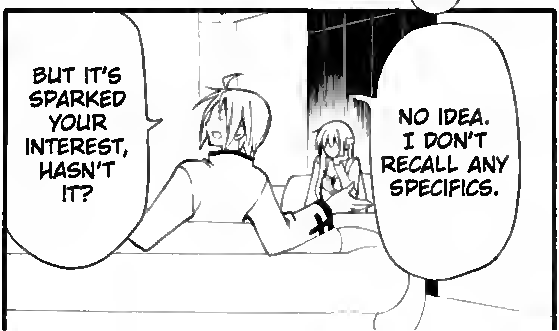

KACHIN (SNAP) カチン
...OH RIGHT, RIGHT...
I GUESS I FORGOT TO MENTION IT.
IT JUST HAPPENED TO CROSS MY MIND...
ONE VERSE OF THIS "BOOK OF DA'AT" IS...

...THAT.

A DESCRIPTION OF A SIGIL EXACTLY LIKE THE ONE ON YOUR CHEST.

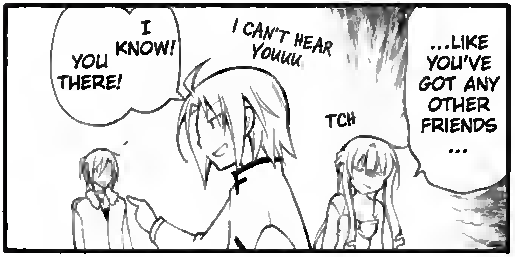
ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT I MIGHT START REMEMBERING SOME OTHER FACTS...
.....
...SO MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO HUMOR ME, HALF-BREED.

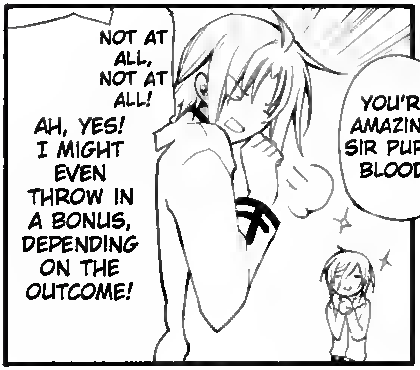

—THIS BRAT...
.....
AND THE DE-TAILS?


BUT IT'S SPARKED YOUR INTEREST, HASN'T IT?
NO IDEA. I DON'T RECALL ANY SPECIFICS.

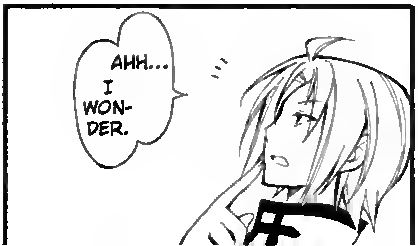
YOU'LL GET FIVE MILLION IN ADVANCE AND ANOTHER FIVE IF YOU SUCCEED— A TOTAL OF TEN MILLION.
YOU WON'T FIND A BETTER DEAL ANYWHERE ELSE.
I HAVEN'T AGREED TO ANY-THING YET...
5 MIL + 5 MIL
10 MIL
OH? IF YOU'D RATHER NOT, I'LL ASK SOME-ONE ELSE.
ピッ
BI (POINT)

AND SO!
THERE'S SOME-WHERE I'D LIKE YOU TO GO!

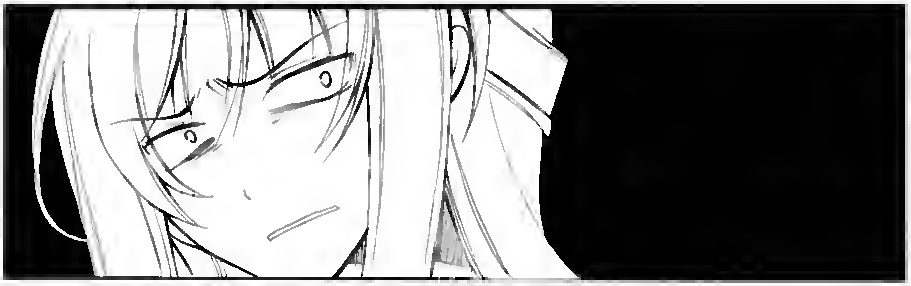

I KNOW! YOU THERE!
I CAN'T HEAR YOUUU.
TCH
...LIKE YOU'VE GOT ANY OTHER FRIENDS ...

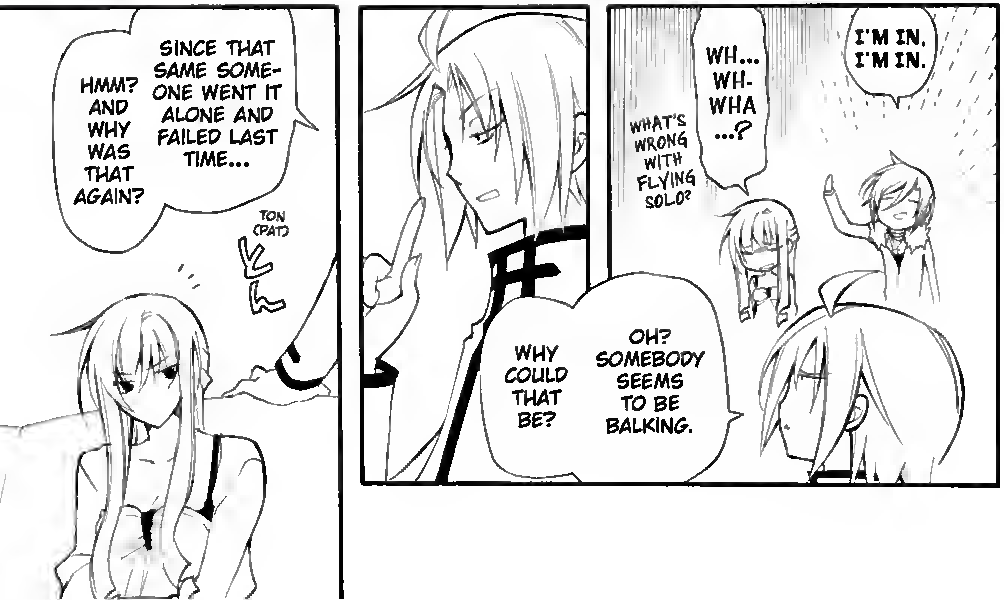

NOT AT ALL, NOT AT ALL!
AH, YES! I MIGHT EVEN THROW IN A BONUS, DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME!
YOU'RE AMAZING, SIR PURE-BLOOD!

WOW!
RELICS THAT MIGHT UNDO YOUR CURSE.
IF YOU WORK HARD...
...I'LL SHOW YOU TO RELICS THAT MAY HOLD A HUGE AMOUNT OF DIVINE POWER.

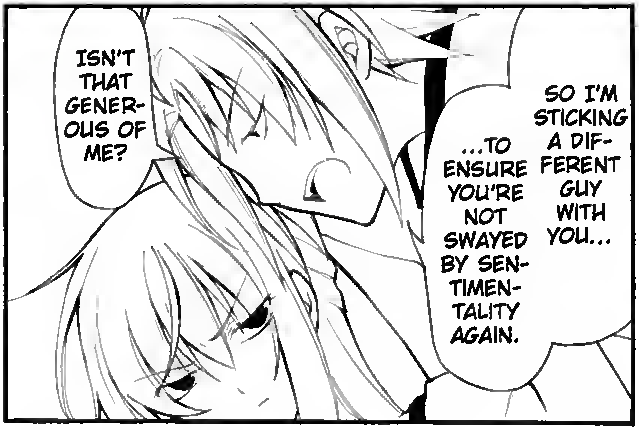

AHH... I WON-DER.

WHY DON'T YOU TWO GO TOGETHER?

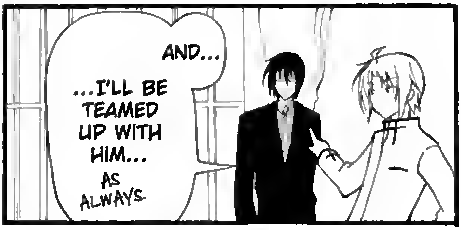


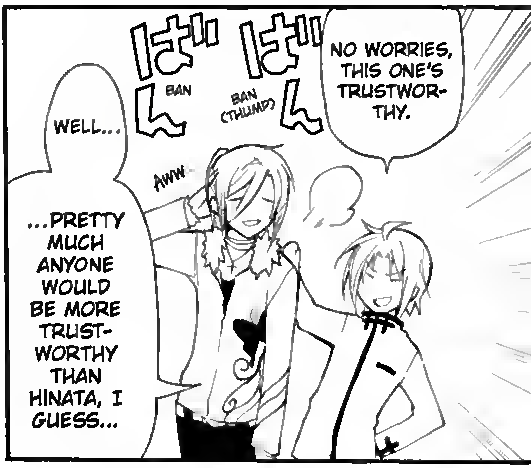

I'M IN, I'M IN.
WH... WH-WHA ...?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH FLYING SOLO?
OH? SOMEBODY SEEMS TO BE BALKING.
WHY COULD THAT BE?
SINCE THAT SAME SOME-ONE WENT IT ALONE AND FAILED LAST TIME...
HMM? AND WHY WAS THAT AGAIN?
TON (PAT)

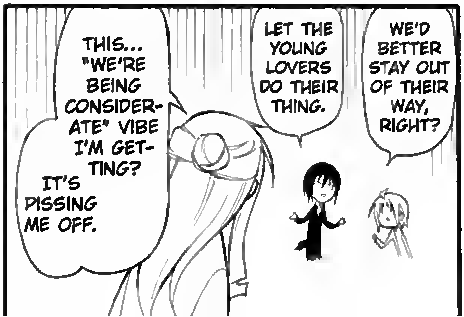
IT'S 'COS YOU WERE DUPED BY YOUR BELOVED HINATA...
...WASN'T IT.
...OH, YES.


ISN'T THAT GENEROUS OF ME?
...TO ENSURE YOU'RE NOT SWAYED BY SENTIMENTALITY AGAIN.
SO I'M STICKING A DIFFERENT GUY WITH YOU...

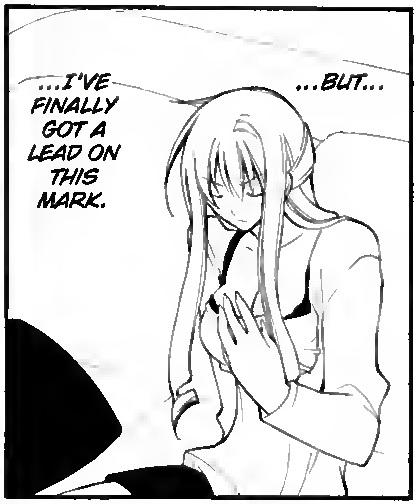
EITHER WAY, YOU WERE STILL DUPED.
IT COULD HAVE BEEN SOMEONE DISGUISED AS HINATA.

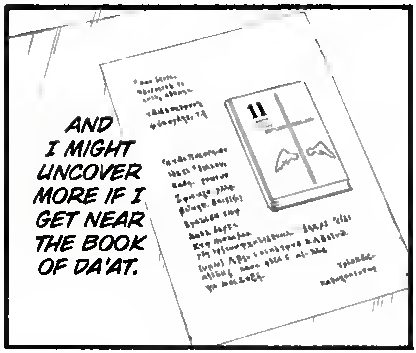

AND...
...I'LL BE TEAMED UP WITH HIM... AS ALWAYS.

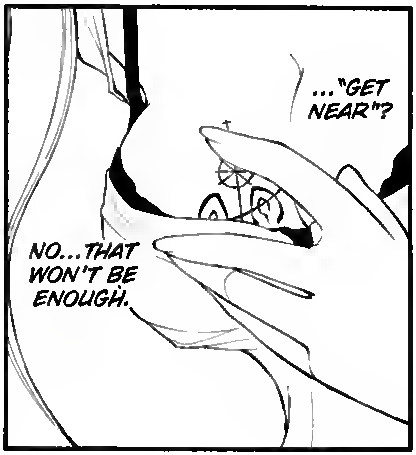

NO WORRIES, THIS ONE'S TRUSTWORTHY.
BAN
BAN (THUMP)
WELL...
AWW
...PRETTY MUCH ANYONE WOULD BE MORE TRUSTWORTHY THAN HINATA, I GUESS...


THIS... "WE'RE BEING CONSIDERATE" VIBE I'M GETTING?
IT'S PISSING ME OFF.
LET THE YOUNG LOVERS DO THEIR THING.
WE'D BETTER STAY OUT OF THEIR WAY, RIGHT?

I HAVE TO TAKE THIS PROPHECY BOOK...
...AND READ THE DESCRIPTION OF IT WITH MY OWN EYES.

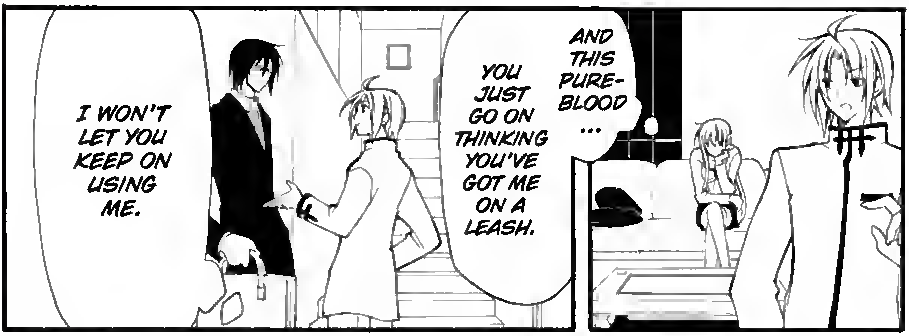

...I'VE FINALLY GOT A LEAD ON THIS MARK.
...BUT...

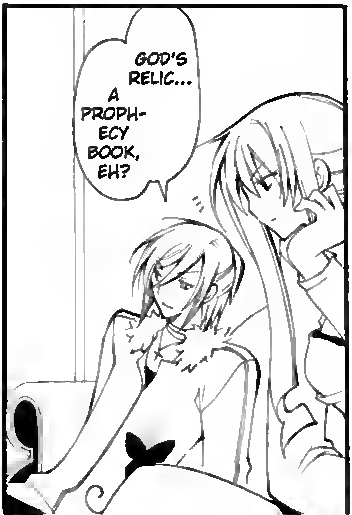

AND I MIGHT UNCOVER MORE IF I GET NEAR THE BOOK OF DA'AT.


...NEAR"?
NO...THAT WON'T BE ENOUGH.

I'VE LOST TO HIM ONCE...
...WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO PUT UP ANY FIGHT...

THE REAL TROUBLE IS THAT THE FALLEN ANGEL IS THE ONE HOLDING THE BOOK.

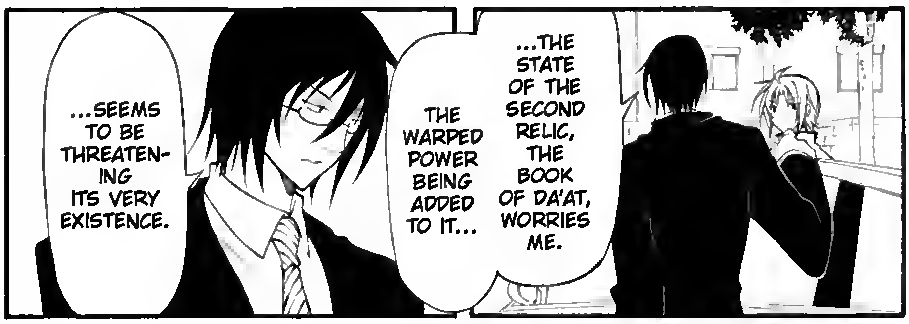

I WON'T LET YOU KEEP ON USING ME.
YOU JUST GO ON THINKING YOU'VE GOT ME ON A LEASH.
AND THIS PURE-BLOOD ...

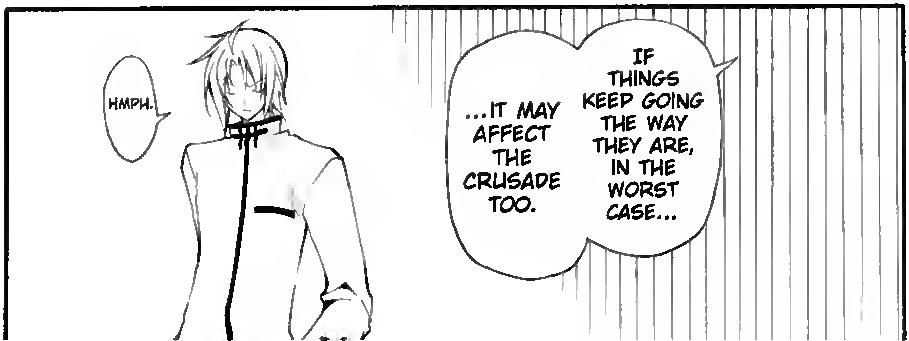

GOD'S RELIC... A PROPH-ECY BOOK, EH?

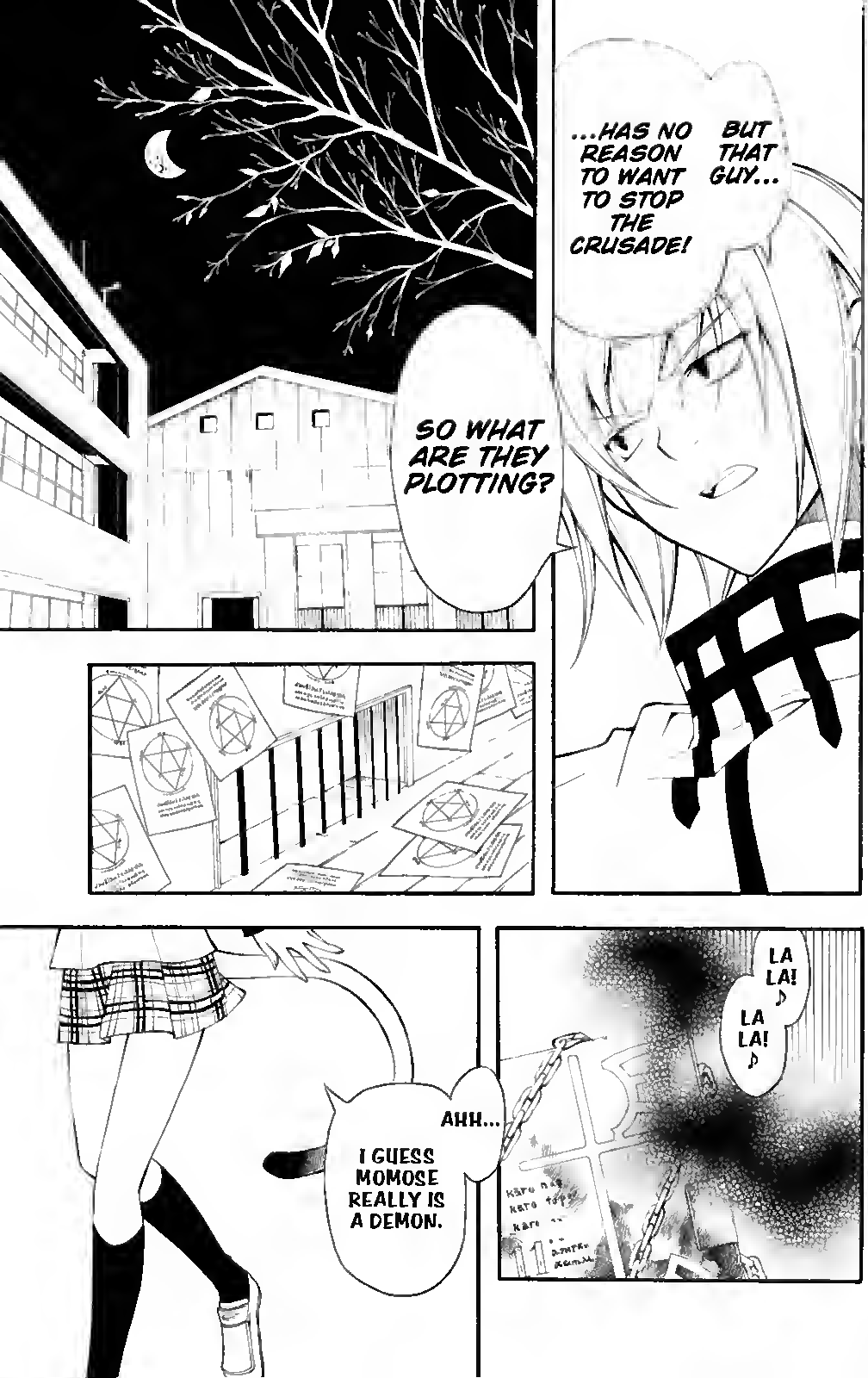
I'M GOING TO USE YOU FOR A CHANGE.

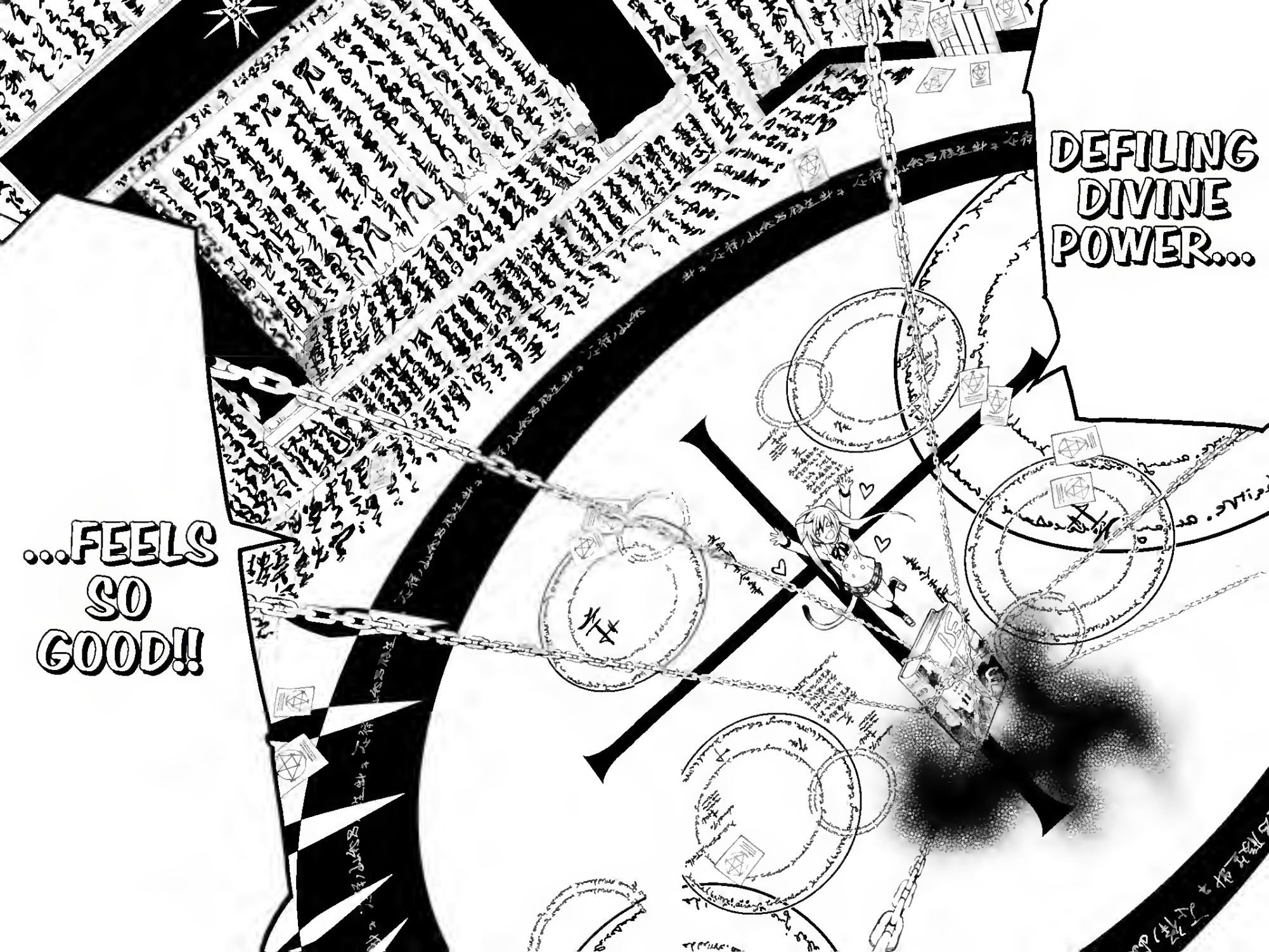
KOSO (WHISPER)
ニヤ…
IF WE'RE ABLE TO SNATCH IT...
...ITS DIVINE POWER...
...MIGHT BE ENOUGH FOR ME TO USE TO UNDO MY MIXED-RACE CURSE!
THIS GUY...
NIKO (SMILE)
ニヤニヤ…

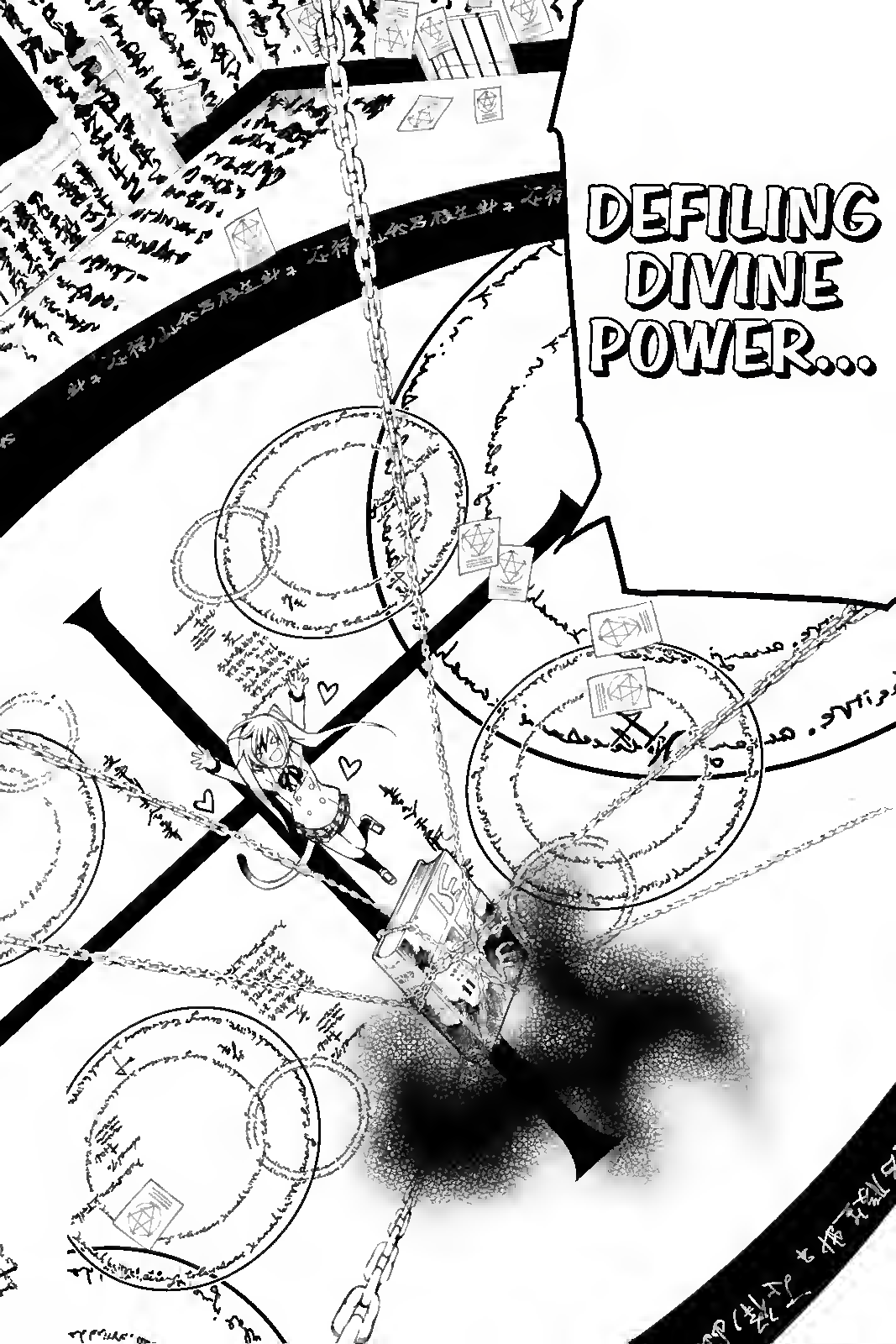
—JUST YOU WATCH, YOU DAMN FALLEN ANGEL.
I'M GONNA MAKE YOU PAY...
...FOR LOOKING DOWN ON ME!


...SEEMS TO BE THREATEN-ING ITS VERY EXISTENCE.
THE WARPED POWER BEING ADDED TO IT...
...THE STATE OF THE SECOND RELIC, THE BOOK OF DA'AT, WORRIES ME.

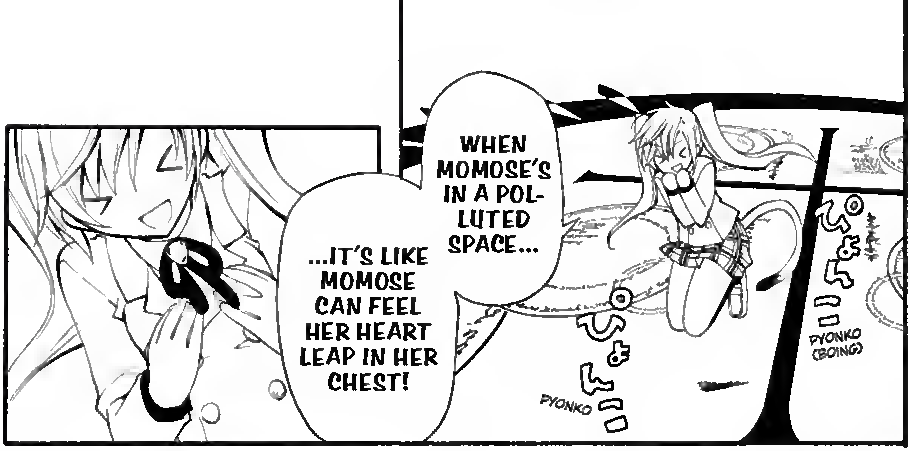

HMPH.
...IT MAY AFFECT THE CRUSADE TOO.
IF THINGS KEEP GOING THE WAY THEY ARE, IN THE WORST CASE...

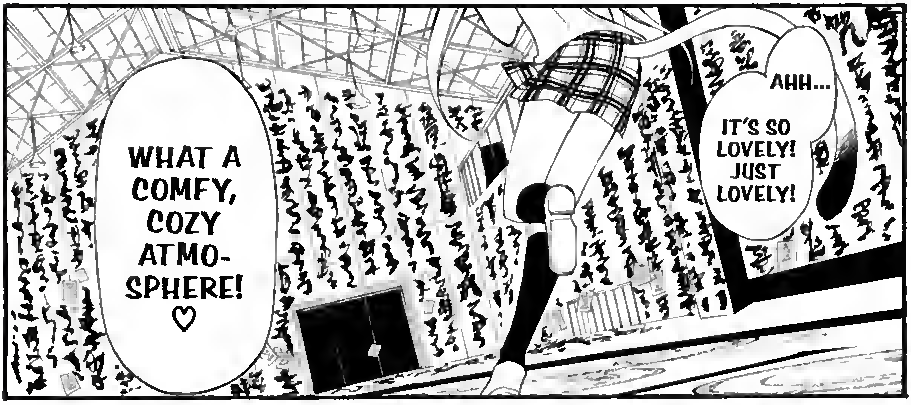

SO WHAT ARE THEY PLOTTING?
BUT THAT GUY...
...HAS NO REASON TO WANT TO STOP THE CRUSADE!
LA LA! ♪
LA LA! ♪
AHH...
I GUESS MOMOSE REALLY IS A DEMON.


DEFILING DIVINE POWER...
...FEELS SO GOOD!!

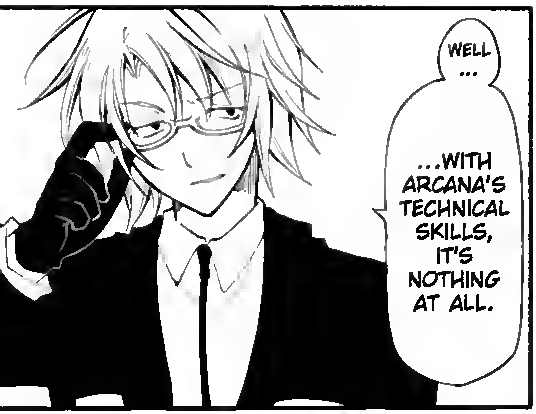

DEFILING
DIVINE
POWER...

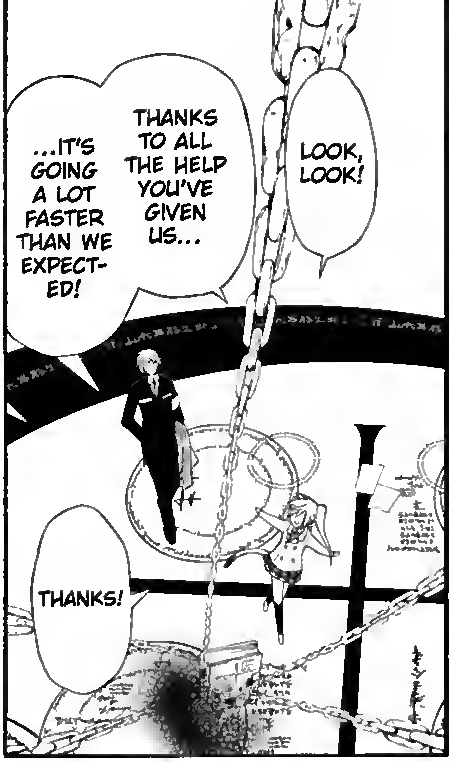
...FEELS
SO
GOOD!!

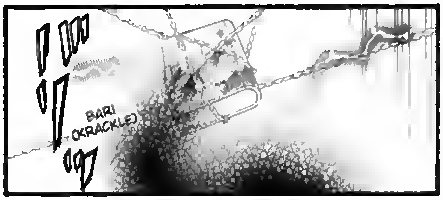

WHEN MOMOSE'S IN A POLLUTED SPACE...
...IT'S LIKE MOMOSE CAN FEEL HER HEART LEAP IN HER CHEST!
PYONKO
ぴょんこ
PYONKO (BOING)


AHH...
IT'S SO LOVELY! JUST LOVELY!
WHAT A COMFY, COZY ATMOSPHERE! ♡

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HAVING FUN.
HA (GASP)!
は
...OH.
YOU WERE HERE, MR. ARCANA.
IT'S MAKINO.

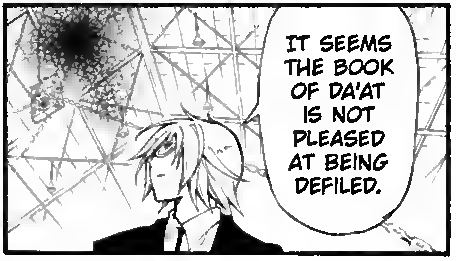

WELL...
...WITH ARCANA'S TECHNICAL SKILLS, IT'S NOTHING AT ALL.


LOOK, LOOK!
THANKS TO ALL THE HELP YOU'VE GIVEN US...
...IT'S GOING A LOT FASTER THAN WE EXPECTED!
THANKS!


BARI (CRACKLE)

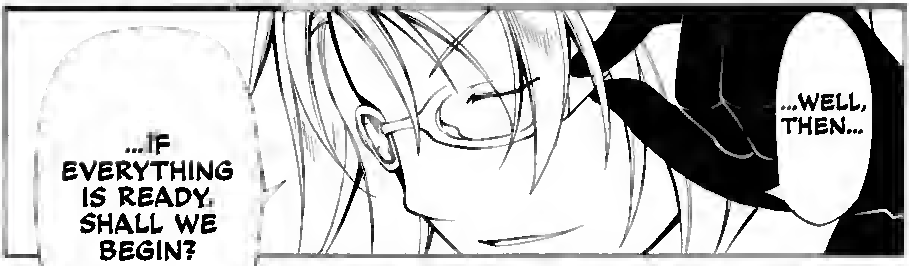
BACHI (ZAP)
WHOA!

...
GENERALLY FOR A JOB LIKE THIS...
...WE MERELY LEND ASSISTANCE WITHOUT GETTING TOO INVOLVED...

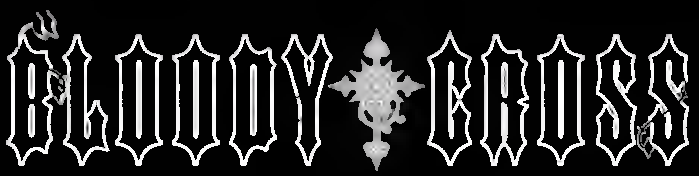

IT SEEMS THE BOOK OF DA'AT IS NOT PLEASED AT BEING DEFILED.

HEE-HEE! OF COURSE! ♡
SATSUKI'S WONDER-FUL.

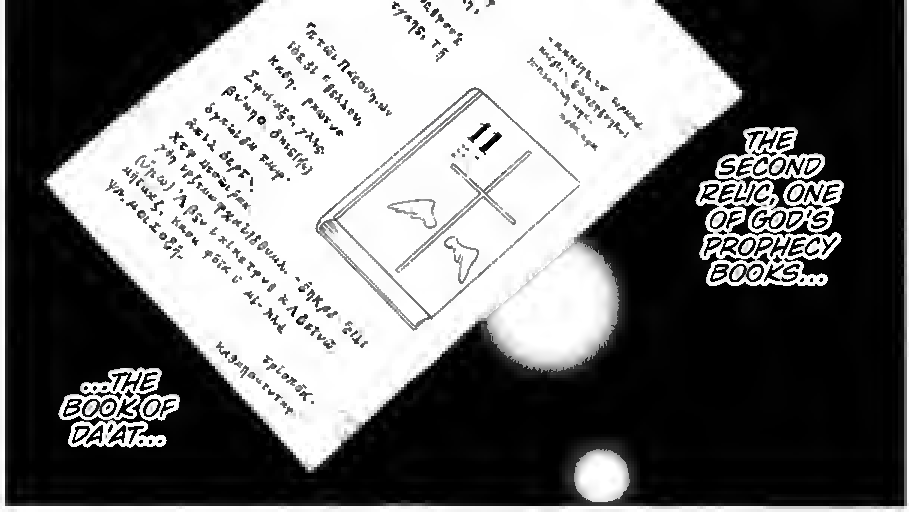
BUT WE LIKE YOUR MASTER'S LATEST IDEA.
IT CERTAINLY EXCITES ONE'S INTEREST AND IMAGI-NATION.


...WELL, THEN...
...IF EVERYTHING IS READY, SHALL WE BEGIN?

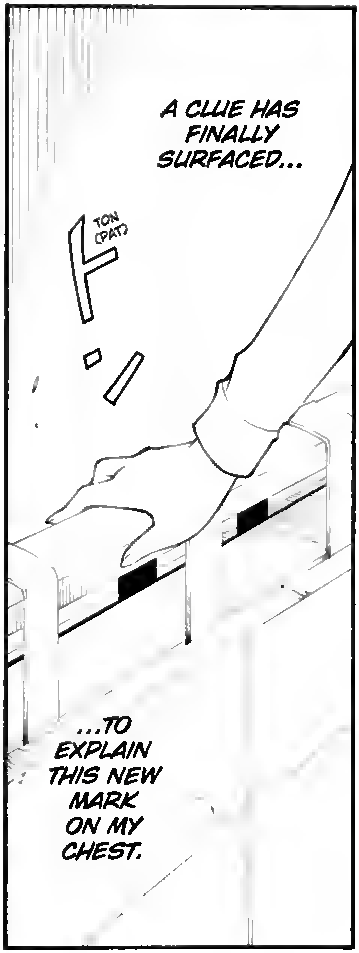
BEFORE THE BOOK OF DA'AT WEAKENS... RIGHT?


BLOODY CROSS

BLOODY CROSS


THE SECOND RELIC, ONE OF GOD'S PROPHECY BOOKS...
...THE BOOK OF DA'AT...

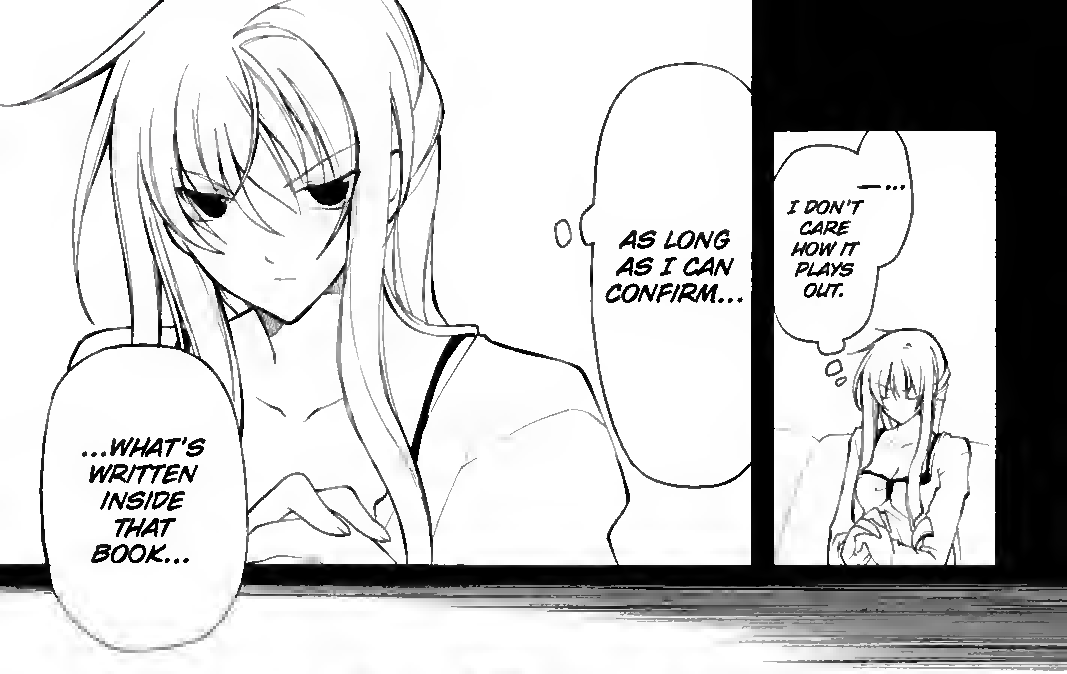
...THAT'S IT, IS IT?

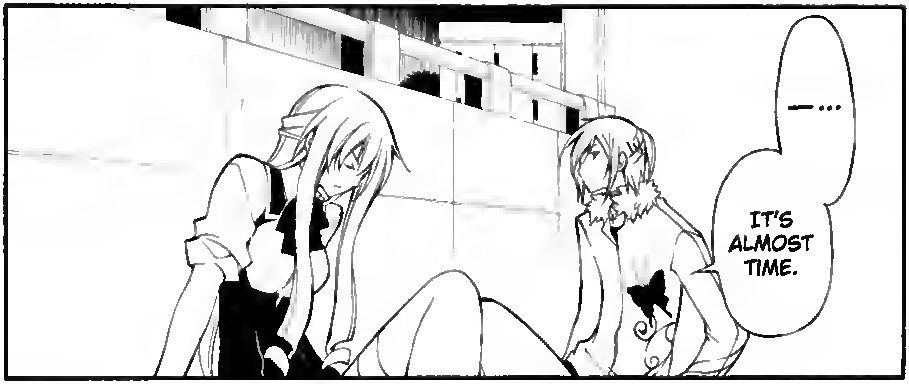

A CLUE HAS FINALLY SURFACED...
TON (PAT)
...TO EXPLAIN THIS NEW MARK ON MY CHEST.

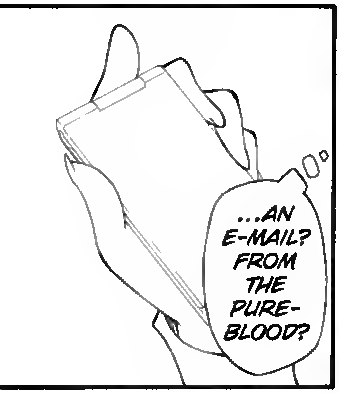
Chapter 13
False Faces

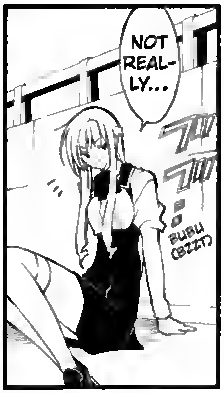
...LISTEN UP, MINIONS!
WE HAVE TWO GOALS TODAY!
SABOTAGE THE ENEMY'S PLANS...
...AND RECOVER THE BOOK!!
...THE ENEMY HAS DRAWN WARPED POWER OUT OF THE PROPHECY BOOK...
...AND IS TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH THE CRUSADE IN SOME WAY.
THAT'S WHAT I SUSPECT IS GOING ON!
THE BOOK OF DAAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DEFILED TO SOME EXTENT.
...IT HAS A NASTY AURA.
IT'LL RECOVER SOMEWHAT IF I PURIFY IT, BUT...
...IT WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE AS GOOD AS NEW

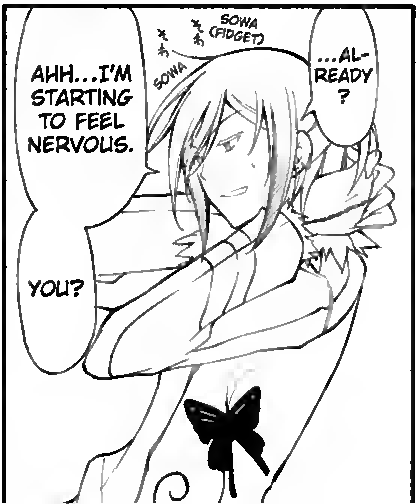
...IF YOU, A GOD CANDIDATE, GO ON THE MOVE...
...BUT...
...THE FALLEN ANGEL WILL PROBABLY SHOW UP TOO, RIGHT?
I DON'T WANT TO FACE HIM...
...SO YOU TAKE CARE OF HIM, OKAY?
BISHI
BISHI (POINTS)
WELL, OBVIOUSLY!
BUT YOU TWO, WEAK AS YOU ARE, HAD BETTER GET RID OF ANY SMALL-TIME THUGS!
SUCH HOSTILITY!
THE BOOK'S INSIDE THE GYM OF A CLOSED DOWN SCHOOL...
LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE TWO ENTRY POINTS— MAIN GATE AND BACK GATE.
THAT'S CORRECT.
THEN...
...WE'LL SET OUT AT ELEVEN P.M. SHARP.
MEMO (WRITE)
MEMO
HMM.
I'LL BE TAKING THE MAIN GATE.
YOU TWO GO IN FROM THE BACK
ENTERING THROUGH THE REAR IS DEMEANING FOR ONE WHO SHALL BE GOD!
HEROES ALWAYS RIDE IN THROUGH THE FRONT!
THAT'S MY SIR PUREBLOOD!
OH-SO-NOBLE!
.....


...WHAT'S WRITTEN INSIDE THAT BOOK...
AS LONG AS I CAN CONFIRM...
—...
I DON'T CARE HOW IT PLAYS OUT.

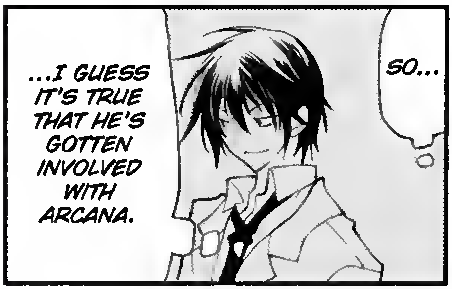

—...
IT'S ALMOST TIME.

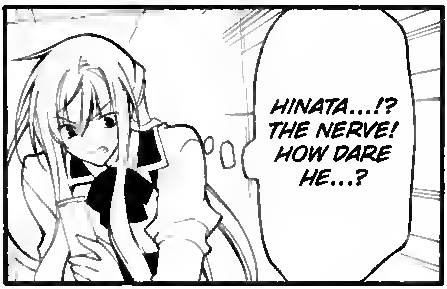

...AN E-MAIL? FROM THE PURE-BLOOD?

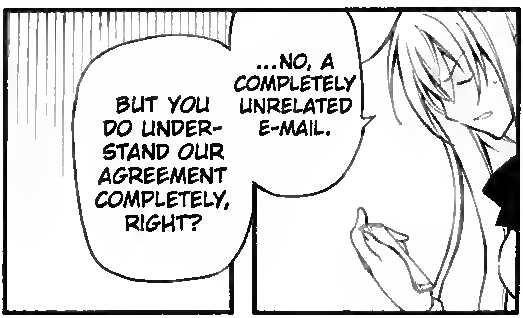

NOT REAL-LY...
PUBU (BZZT)


...AL-READY?
SOWA (FIDGET)
SOWA
AHH...I'M STARTING TO FEEL NERVOUS.
YOU?

Sub (no subject)
Warning.
Arcana's keeping tabs on you, so don't get in too deep.
You might want to sit this one out.
Hinata
Reply
OK
Menu
HUH ...?

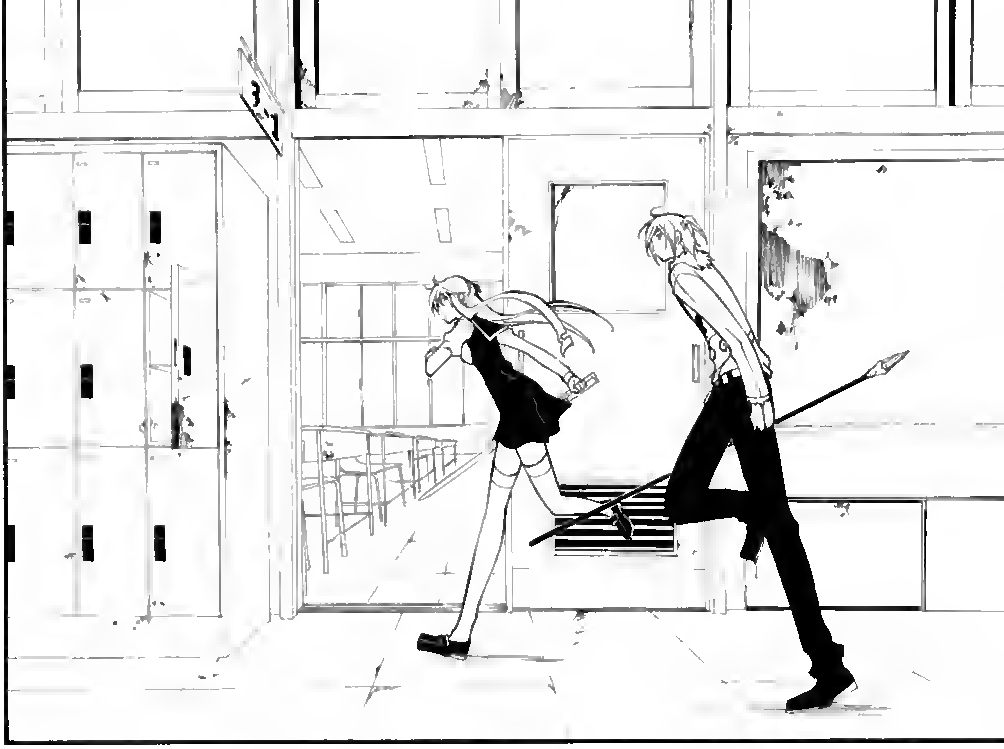

...I GUESS IT'S TRUE THAT HE'S GOTTEN INVOLVED WITH ARCANA.
SO...

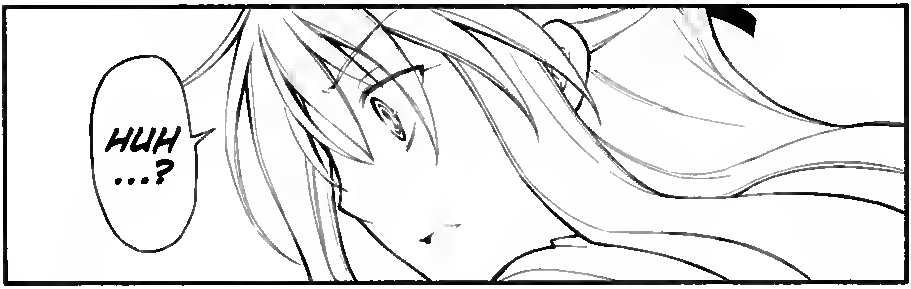

HINATA...!? THE NERVE! HOW DARE HE...?

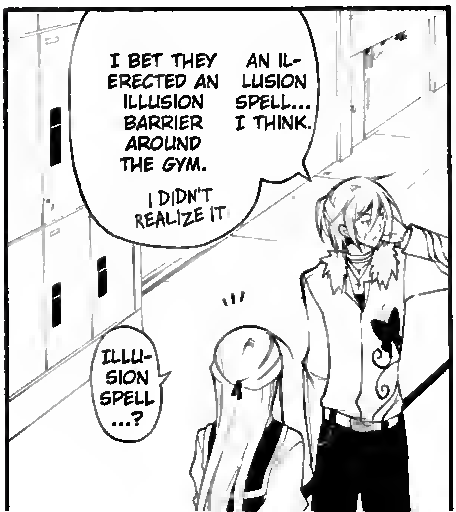

BUT YOU DO UNDERSTAND OUR AGREEMENT COMPLETELY, RIGHT?
...NO, A COMPLETELY UNRELATED E-MAIL.

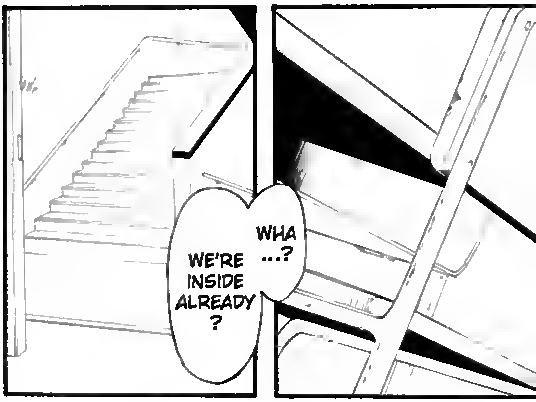
IS IT THE OTHER TWO?
WHAT IS IT?
HA (GASP)

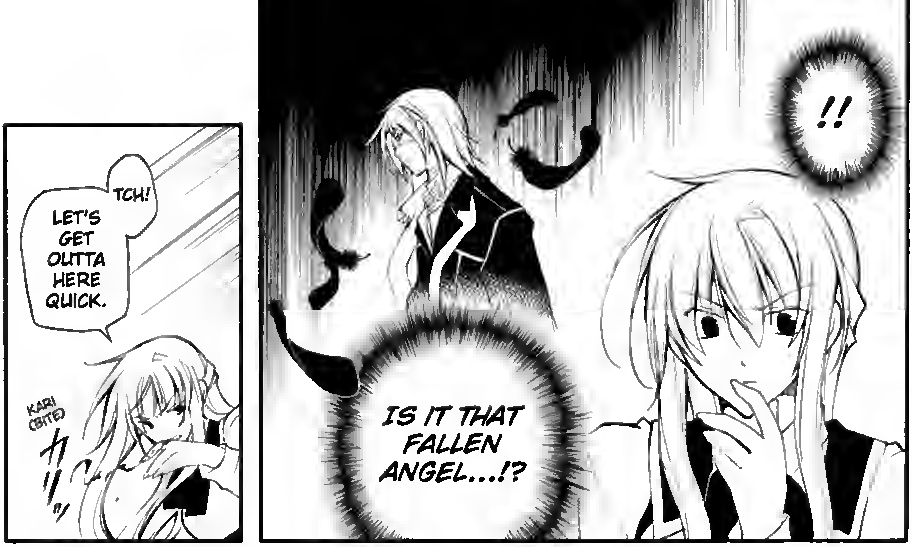
I'LL LET YOU HAVE THE BOOK'S DIVINE POWER...
...BUT THE BOOK ITSELF IS MINE.
THAT'S FINE.
AND WE'LL GET MARRIED WHEN WE'RE DONE?
OR WDULD YDU RATHER, YOU KNDW, HAVE A PERIDD DF ENGAGEMENT FIRST?
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH... UH, NO.
TAN (TWO)
...IT'S TIME.
LET'S GO.
PARI (CRACKLE)
OKAY.
DA (DASH)

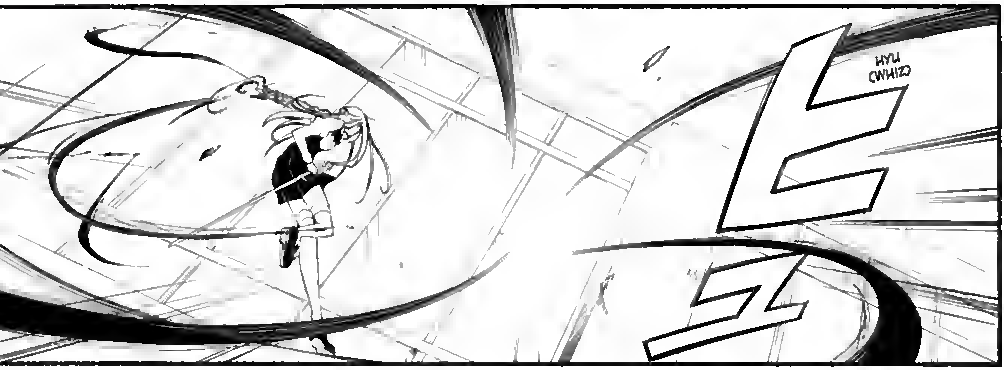

3-1


HUH ...?


I BET THEY ERECTED AN ILLUSION BARRIER AROUND THE GYM.
I DIDN'T REALIZE IT
AN ILLUSION SPELL... I THINK.
ILLUSION SPELL ...?

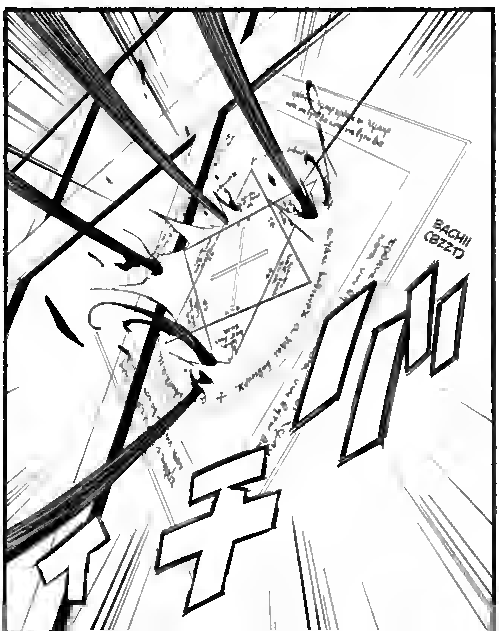

WE'RE INSIDE ALREADY?
WHA ...?


!!
IS IT THAT FALLEN ANGEL...!?
TCH!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE QUICK.
KARI (BITE)

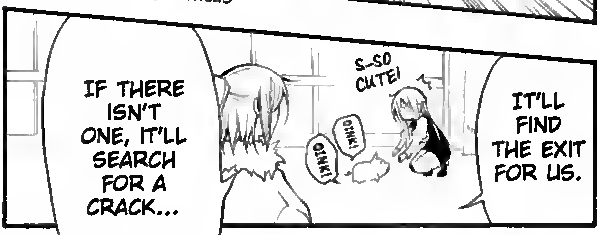

HYU (WHIZZ)

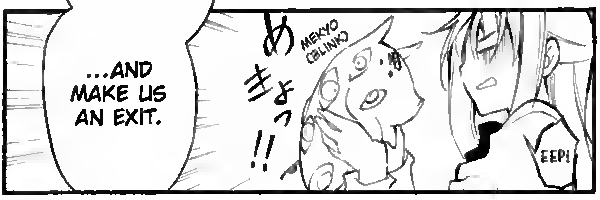
!!

HAAH. IT'S NO GOOD.
A PRETTY POWERFUL GUY CREATED THIS SPACE.
WE CAN'T JUST WALK OUT OF IT.

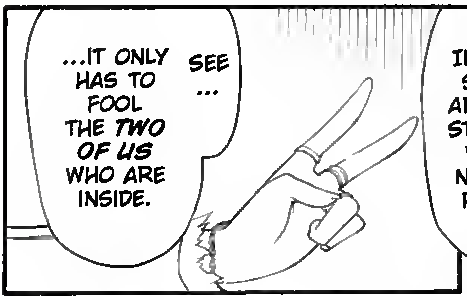

BAGUU (BEAT)

HEAD: LUMINOUS





PAPER: IMPERIAL EDICT



...IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S ONLY LOOKING RIGHT IN THIS AREA.
ILLUSION SPELLS ARE CONSTRUCTED WITH A NARROW RANGE.
C'MON, FIND THAT TRUFFLE!
THAT'S DISTURBING.
½" ZOMAWA (SHUDDER)
SNFF!
SNFF!

ZU (ZAAA)
ZUZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
GA
GA (WAAA)
GA (GRAA)
ZU
WHA ...!?
—MY, MY.
WHEN DID YOU GET SO CHUMMY...
ZU
ZU

YOU'RE FROM ARCANA ...

...YOU TWO?

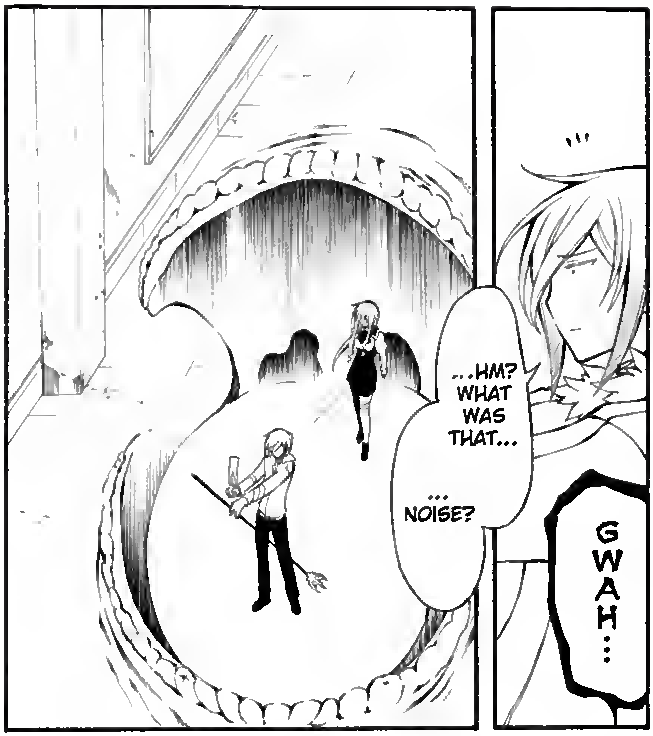
PLEASE TRY TO REMEMBER IT... I'M MAKINO.

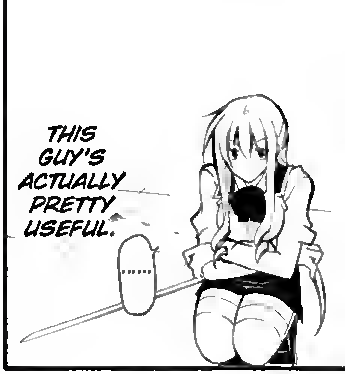
too silly
Warning-
Arcana's keeping tabs on you, so don't get in too deep.
You might want to sit this one out.
Minato
Menu

...TSUKIMIYA.

SO THAT LIAR...
...DOES TELL THE TRUTH SOMETIMES, HUH?
... HUH.

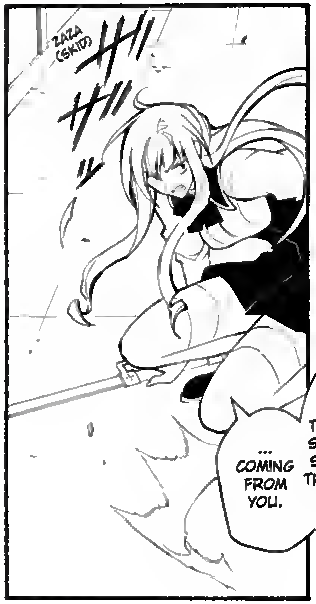
BUSHU (ZHLURP)
ブシュ
...MM?
TON (TMP)
DOSHA (SPLAT)
...DID YOU FIND AN EXIT?
ZUKI (SLICE)
FURU
FURU (SHAKE)
DIDJA?
OKAY.
OINK!
PLAN "B" IT IS.
...WELL, THEN, GO FOR IT.
WE'RE GONNA HAFTA MAKE ONE BY FORCE.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT.


GWAH...
...
...HM? WHAT WAS THAT...
... NOISE?

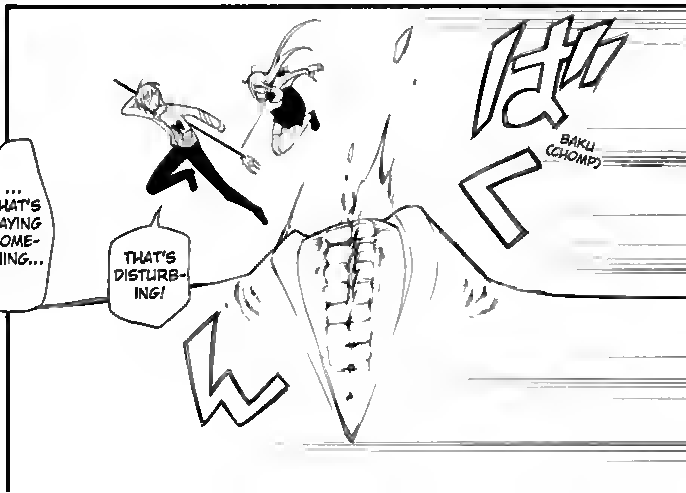

THIS GUY'S ACTUALLY PRETTY USEFUL.
.....

AND HIS HONESTY MIGHT MAKE HIM EVEN BETTER THAN HINATA.
PERIM-ETER-SHAPED E.X.P.A.-TION!!

SPELL: DIG


ZAZA (SKITT)
... COMING FROM YOU.
... THAT'S SAYING SOME-THING...

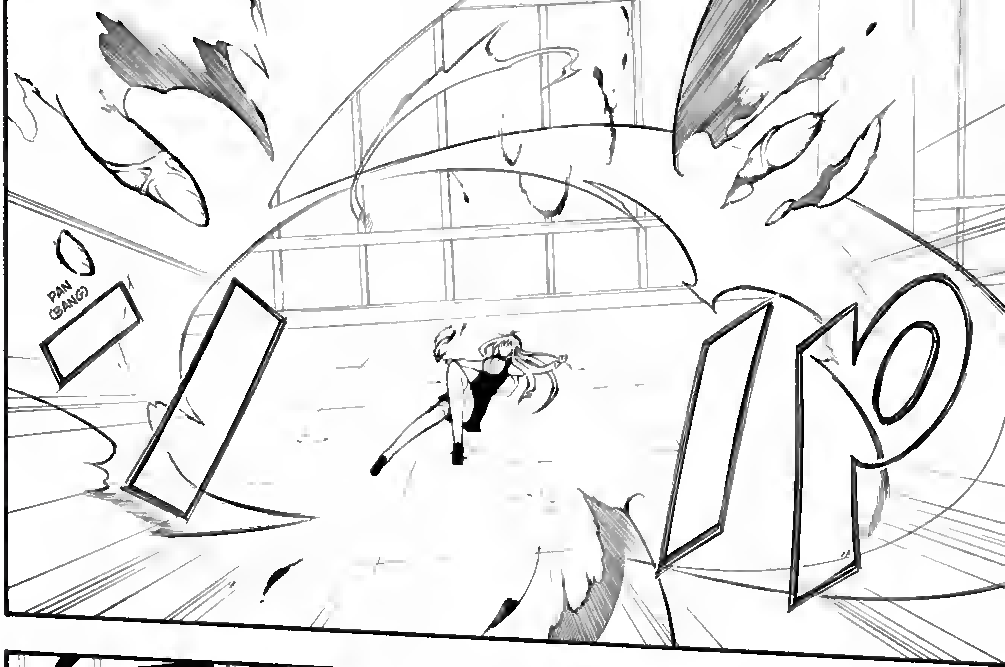
HUH ...?
A MOUTH ?

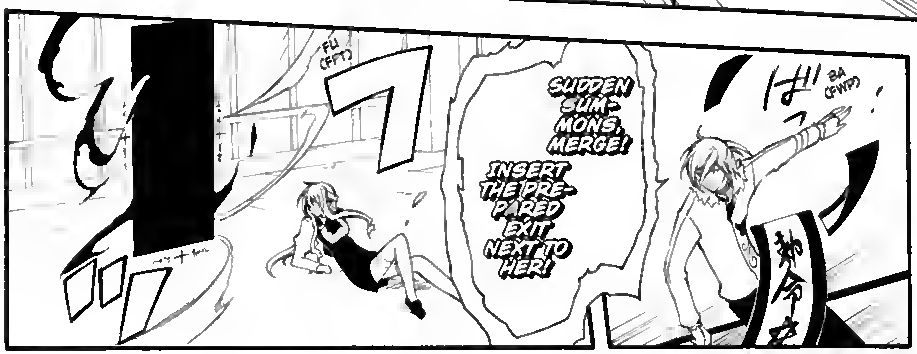

BAKU (CHOMP)
THAT'S DISTURB-ING!

JUUUUU (SHARP)
WELL, *THIS* IS A PHANTOM SPACE...
...SO ANYTHING IS POS-SIBLE, RIGHT?
ZAA (SWISH)
AT PRES-ENT...
...I'M *BORROWING* THIS SPACE.
SO...

PAPER: IMPERIAL EDICT

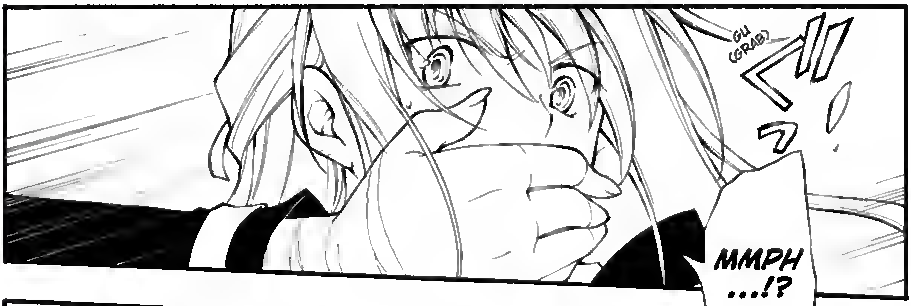
GUSHA (CRUMPLE)
YOU'VE BEEN...
...ESPE-CIALLY ANNOY-ING.
BOKO (BLAP)
BOKO
BOKO
...AND I HATE IT!
...HE'S JUST RESTRAIN-ING ME... I SEE.
THAT'S WHY HIS ATTACKS HAVE BEEN SO HALF-ASSED...
HE WANTS TO CAPTURE ME ALIVE!
PUSU (POP)
PUSU
...THIS MAKES ME FEEL LIKE SOMEBODY'S PRISONER...
IT'S HUMILI-ATING...
...
BUT
...
KARI (SCRATCH)


PAN (BANG)


FU (FFT)
SUDDEN SUMMONS MERGE!
INSERT THE PREPARED EXIT NEXT TO HER!
HA! (HW)
PAPER IMPERIAL EDICT

YEAH ...
YOU'RE AN ABSOLUTE PAIN IN THE ASS... ... TRULY.

I...
...GOTTA BE GOING NOW. SO COULDJA STEP OUTTA MY WAY?
GIRI GIRI
QUIET! DIE!!
GA UKAKO
TCH.
YOU'RE THE ANNOYING ONE.
GO AHEAD AND GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN, TSUKIMIYA!
I'LL CATCH UP TO YOU LATER.
HEY!
THAT'S NOT YOUR CALL TO MAKE!
WE'RE SUP-POSED TO BE A TEAM, REMEM-BER!?
YOU CAN'T JUST DECIDE ...


GU (GRAB)
MMPH ...!?

BLACK... FEATHERS?
...THAT MEANS...

NO WAY... THE FALLEN ANGEL!!?

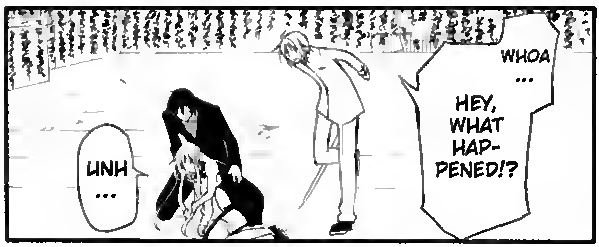
ZA GISHI

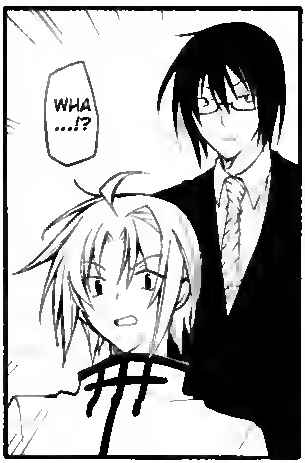
GU
GU
IT CAN'T BE...!
GU (STRAIN)

...HEH HEH HEH.
BWA HA HA HA HA!
TAKE THAT, WEAK-LINGS!
MY NOBLE...
SUTA (TMD)
...HEH HEH HEH.
HEH...
...ROYAL ATTACK!!
DOGO (SWOOSH)

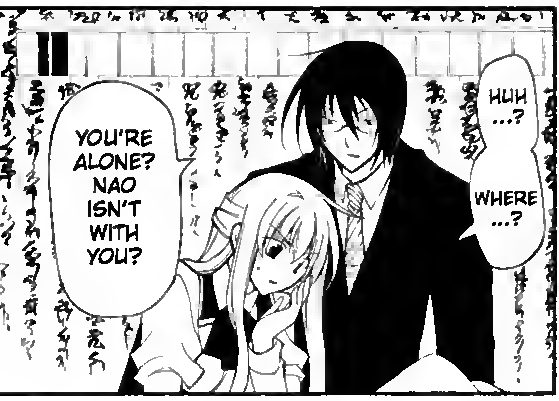
IT'S ALMOST TOO SHINY
AND THIS NEW BLADE I BROUGHT FEELS GOOD TOO.
OUR SUCCESS HERE IS ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT...
ZA (SKFF)
MY IMPRESSIVE SKILLS ARE ALMOST A TERROR TO BEHOLD!
AS AM I!
HEH!
HEH!
HEH!
HEH!
HOW 'BOUT THAT !?
...MY FOOLISH MASTER.
...I WISH YOU'D REALIZE THAT WE'RE NO LONGER CONDUCTING EITHER A SURPRISE ATTACK...
... OR A RAID...
WE'RE GOING IN.
OKAY?
READY?
HEAVE!
YOU COULD HAVE TAKEN THEM OOWN QUIETLY!
SHOW-OFF!
I HAD NO CHOICE!
...TONS OF ENEMIES SWARMED IN OUT OF NO-WHERE!
BUT AS SOON AS WE ENTERED THE SCHOOL YARD...
I'M TELLING YOU, THINGS ARE GOING MY WAY!
SEE, SEE?
...
...WE'VE ALREADY REACHED THE GYM DOOR.
...AHA! WHILE WE'VE BEEN ARGUING...

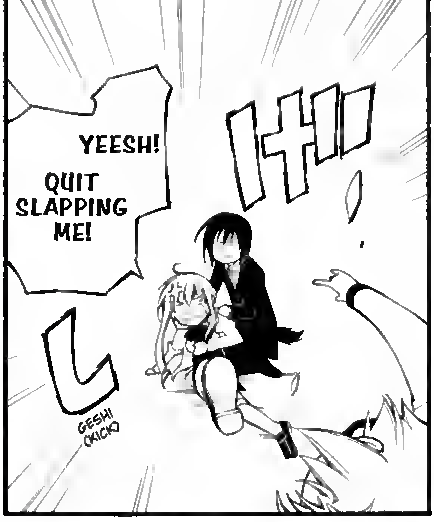
GOTON (CLUNK)
DO (WHOOM)
HO!!

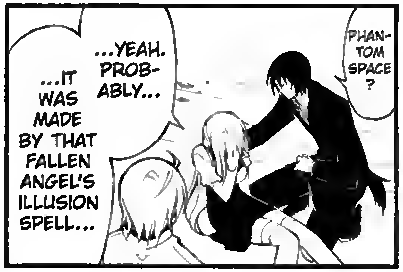

UNH ...
WHOA ...
HEY, WHAT HAP-PENED!?


WHA ...!?

PESHI
PESHI (SMACK)
PESHI
WAKE UP!!
PESHI
HEY!
PESHI
HEY!

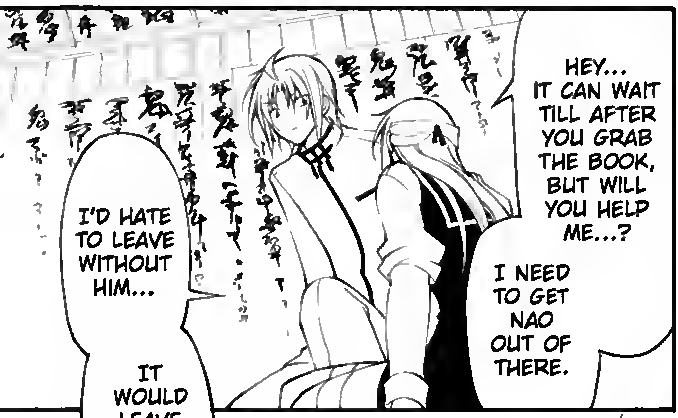

HUH ...?
WHERE ...?
YOU'RE ALONE? NAO ISN'T WITH YOU?


YEESH! QUIT SLAPPING ME!
GESHI (KICK)

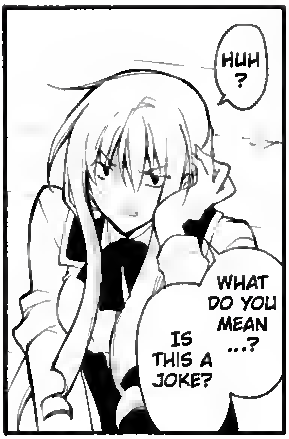

PHANTOM SPACE?
...YEAH. PROBABLY...
...IT WAS MADE BY THAT FALLEN ANGEL'S ILLUSION SPELL...

NAO ...
ZUKI ZUKI ZUKI
HE'S PROBABLY STILL... ... TRAPPED IN THAT PHANTOM SPACE.

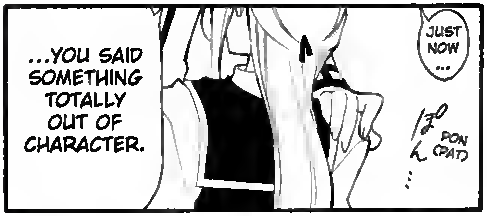
EH ...? NAO?
ZUKI (THROB)

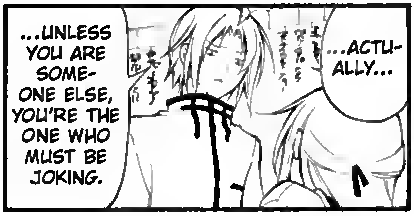

HEY... IT CAN WAIT TILL AFTER YOU GRAB THE BOOK, BUT WILL YOU HELP ME...?
I NEED TO GET NAO OUT OF THERE.
I'D HATE TO LEAVE WITHOUT HIM...
IT WOULD LEAVE A BAD AFTER-TASTE...
HEY...

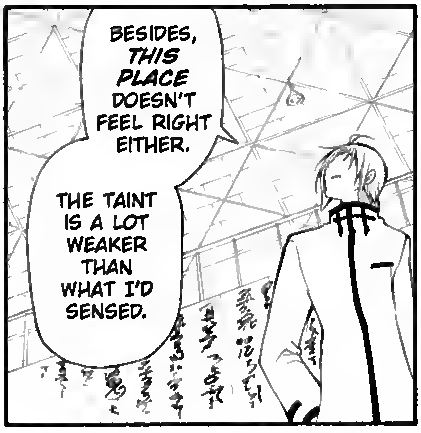
... THAT'S RIGHT ... ...I...
HA (GASP)
I'VE GOTTA GET BACK INSIDE THAT SPACE!

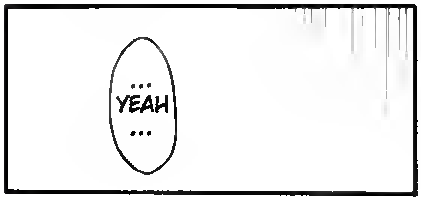

HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...? IS THIS A JOKE?

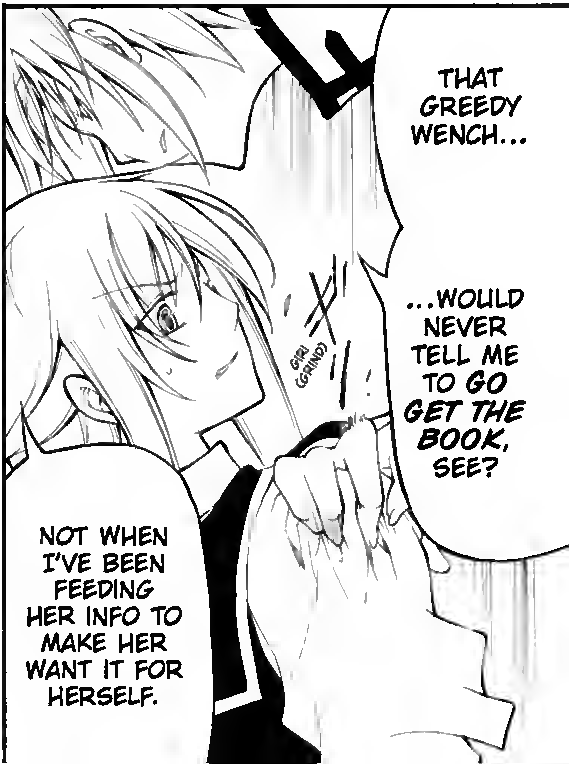
...WHO ARE YOU?


...YOU SAID SOMETHING TOTALLY OUT OF CHARACTER.
JUST NOW...
PON (PAT)


...UNLESS YOU ARE SOME-ONE ELSE, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MUST BE JOKING.
...ACTU-ALLY...

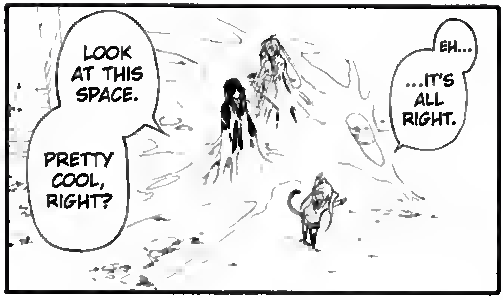

BESIDES, THIS PLACE DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT EITHER.
THE TAINT IS A LOT WEAKER THAN WHAT I'D SENSED.


...YEAH...


THAT GREEDY WENCH...
...WOULD NEVER TELL ME TO GO GET THE BOOK, SEE?
GIRI (GRIND)
NOT WHEN I'VE BEEN FEEDING HER INFO TO MAKE HER WANT IT FOR HERSELF.

...WE'RE INSIDE SATSUKI'S NIGHTMARE, AREN'T WE...
...CAT?
THE REAL GYM'S ELSE-WHERE...
...PRO-TECTED BY SATSUKI'S ILLUSIONS.
...HEH.
ZA (SKSH)

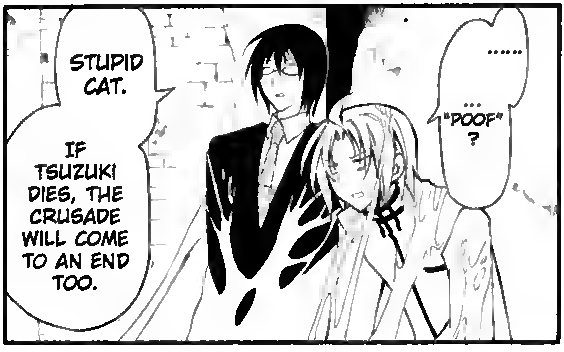
GA (GRAB)
... HERE.
YOU CAN HAVE IT.
GOTO (CLUNK)
ZU (CHHHO)
GICHI (STICK)
WHAT THE ...!?
MOMOSE REALLY WANTED TO WATCH YOU GRAB FOR THAT FAKE BOOK YOURSELVES...
...AND SEE YOU WRITHING IN FRUSTRATION WHEN IT TRAPPED YOU...
HMPH ...
TO (TMP)

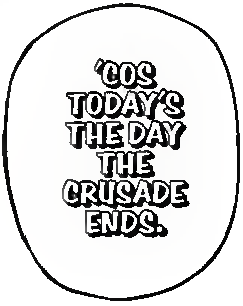

LOOK AT THIS SPACE.
PRETTY COOL, RIGHT?
EH...
...IT'S ALL RIGHT.

SUPER ...
... BORING !!

WHEE!
...MAKE IT GO "POOF" NOW WITH ALL OF YOU IN IT! ♡
HE'S GON-NA...

MOMOSE KNOWS THAT MUCH!
BUT THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM TODAY.
BEH!


STUPID CAT.
IF TSUZUKI DIES, THE CRUSADE WILL COME TO AN END TOO.
.....
... "POOF" ?


'COS TODAY'S THE DAY THE CRUSADE ENDS.

WHAT ...!?

ZURU (SLIP)
ZURU
HEE HEE HEE.
SO YOU GUYS CAN GO BYE-BYE, HE SAID...

LATER!
DOPUN (BLAP)

ZAA (WISH)
WAIT, YOU!
HEY ...!
HEY ...
...COME BACK AND EXPLAIN WHAT YOU...

...AND THEN "THE END!"
SATSUKI'S GONNA BECOME GOD...
BA (PWP)
... MEAN ...

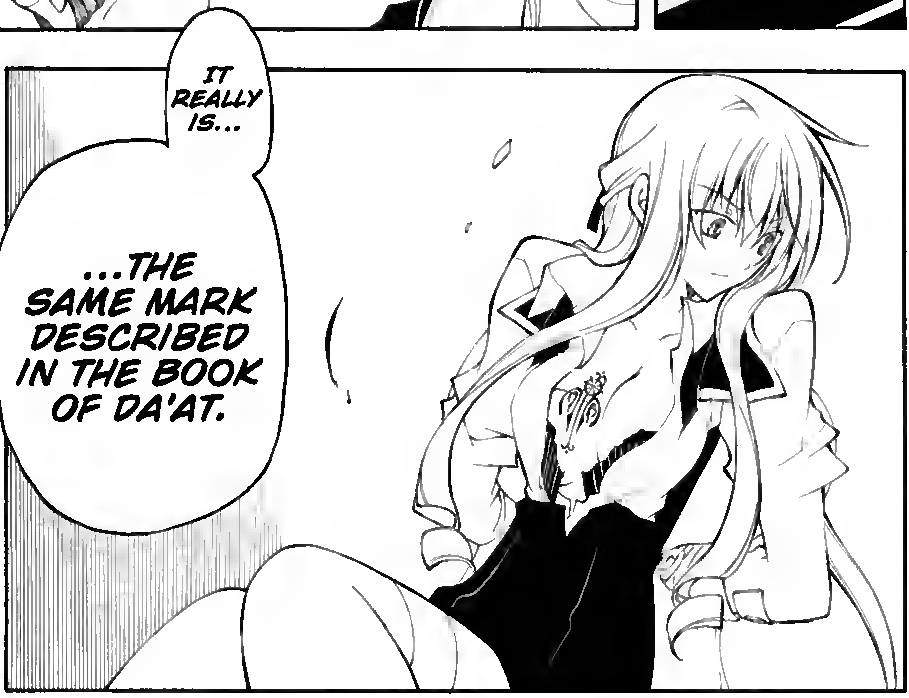
—...
WHERE AM I...?
.....
NH...
...I CAN STILL SALVAGE THIS SITUATION...
...IF I CAN GET A PEEK INSIDE THAT BOOK.
IT'S BEEN SPELLED SO I CAN'T USE MY MIXED-RACE POWERS TO ESCAPE!
...!
GACHA (CLANK)
DAMMIT... I DIDN'T COUNT ON BEING CAPTURED BY MYSELF.
PAPERS SEAL
KII (CREAK)
BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY...

THE FALLEN ANGEL ...!
KA
...JUST THE MAN I WANTED TO SEE.
I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOME-THING.
WHY HAVE YOU CAPTURED AND KEPT ME ALIVE?

...KEEPING SILENT...
...WILL ONLY KEEP THE GIRL IN SUSPENSE...
...HEY!
KA
...SATSUKI.
NICE TO MEET YOU, MISS.
I'M IZUMI, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ARCANA.
I'VE AN INTEREST IN GOD'S RELICS AND THE CRUSADE, JUST LIKE YOU.
NIKO (SMILE)
!
HE'S... ARCANA'S ...!?
...NICE TO MEET YOU... ...I THINK?

...I'VE SEEN THIS SCENE NUMEROUS TIMES ALREADY...
...SO IT DOESN'T REALLY SEEM... LIKE A FIRST MEETING.
THEN AGAIN ...
BOSO (MUTTER)
ACTUALLY, WE...
...HOPED YOU MIGHT...
WHAT THE ...?
SU (SWING)
HYU (SWISH)

...HUH, YOU WERE RIGHT...


IT REALLY IS...
...THE SAME MARK DESCRIBED IN THE BOOK OF DA'AT.

FALLEN ANGEL GOD CANDI-DATE...
...AND ARCANA HEAD HONCHO ...
THESE GUYS... KNOW WHAT'S IN THE BOOK OF DA'AT...

.....
... HEY ...

AND...YOU CAPTURED ME, THE ONE WITH THE MARK, ALIVE.
...MEANS THIS MARK MUST BE WORTH SOME-THING.
THAT MEN AS IMPORTANT AS YOU WOULD GO TO SUCH LENGTHS TO CONFIRM IT...
.....
WHAT ABOUT?
—WHICH MEANS...
...THIS SHOULD GO QUICKLY.
I'D...LIKE TO OFFER A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL PROPOSAL.
AS THE ONE WHO BEARS THIS MARK...
...THAT YOU TWO ARE SO INTEREST-ED IN...
...I MIGHT NOT BE OPPOSED...TO COOPERATING WITH YOU.

SINCE ...
...HER ONLY OBJEC-TIVE...
...IS TO PLAY NICE AND GET NEAR THE BOOK.

—I WOULDN'T LISTEN TO HER.

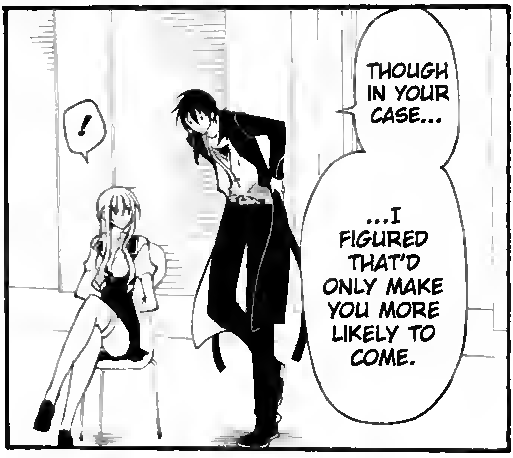
...SHE DOESN'T NEED TO BE ALIVE.
IF ALL YOU TWO WANT IS HER MARK'S POWER...
...AIN'T THAT RIGHT...

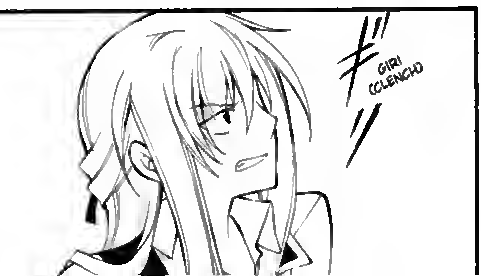
TSÜKI-
MIYA?

...HI...
NATA...

I WARNED YOU.

BINGO!

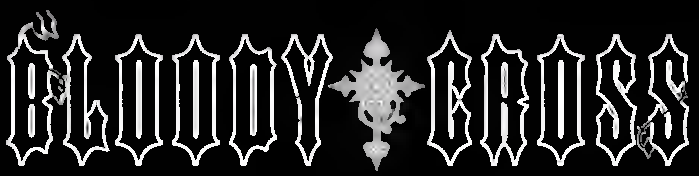

!
THOUGH IN YOUR CASE...
...I FIGURED THAT'D ONLY MAKE YOU MORE LIKELY TO COME.


!!
GIRI (CLENCH)

AWW, DON'T GIMME THAT SCARY LOOK.
I DIDN'T JUST COME TO SAY "HI."
I WANTED TO ASK YOUR HELP WITH SOME-THING.
...MY HELP?
YUP.
WE'VE GOT THIS PROBLEM RIGHT NOW.
THE CRUSADE RELIC HAS BEEN DEFILED AND ITS DIVINE POWER DESECRATED WITHOUT A HITCH...
...BUT IT SEEMS THE BOOK OF DA'AT ALONE AIN'T ENOUGH.
RIGHT ...?
FALLEN ANGEL? BOSS?
I GUESS I'LL JUST COME OUT AND SAY IT.
...SO YOU SEE...
...IN ORDER TO GET THE BOOK TO EMIT MORE POWER...
...WE NEED THE MARK BEARER'S POWER.
...OR RATHER, WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS, WELL...

WE NEED A LIVING SACRIFICE.
YOU, THAT IS.
SO WE CAN SKIP THE CRUSADE...
...AND FORCE OPEN A PATH TO GODHOOD... SEE?
ZAWA (CHILL)
YEAH... TURNS OUT THIS REUNION ...
...IS OUR FINAL GIFT TO YOU BEFORE YOU ARE...
...OFFERED UP TO GOD.

SO WON'T YOU KINDLY DIE FOR US...
...TSUKI-MIYA?


BLOODY CROSS

PREVIEW

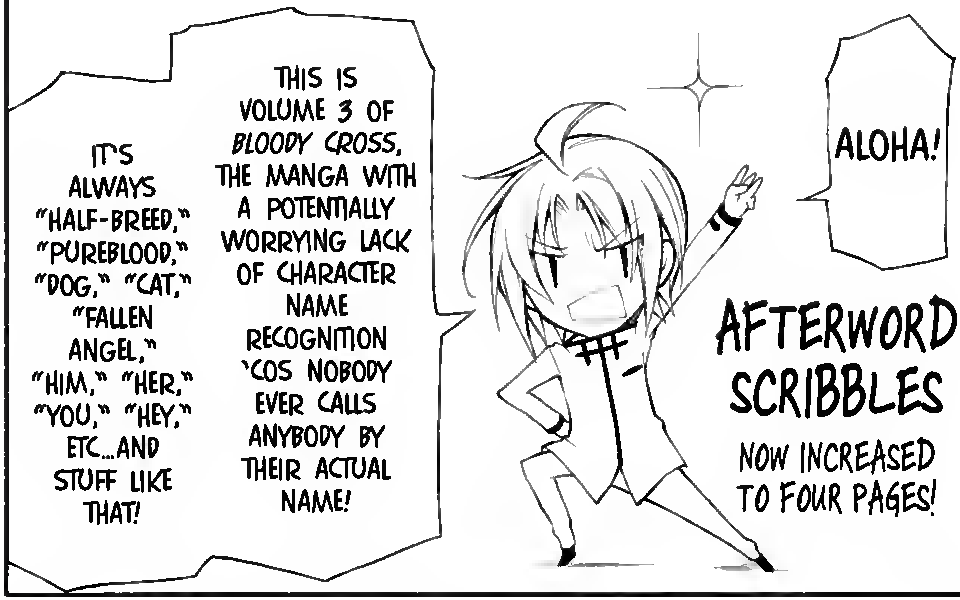
...NONE OF US HAVE THE TIME TO PATIENTLY WAIT IT OUT...
NOT THE BACK-AND-FORTH OF THIS CRUSADE ...
BA (FNP)
...AND NOT THE RELICS THAT ARE ITS REWARDS, SEE?
WHAT ARE THE ENEMY'S TRUE MOTIVES AS A HOSTILE HINATA STANDS BEFORE TSUKIMIYA?
AS FOR YOUR GOD CANDIDATE AND HIS DOG...
WHICH IS WHY WE THOUGHT WE'D EXPLOIT THIS LOOPHOLE.
...IT SEEMS THE FALLEN ANGEL'S ATTENDANT JUST FINISHED THEM OFF.
IT ONLY MAKES SENSE! ♡

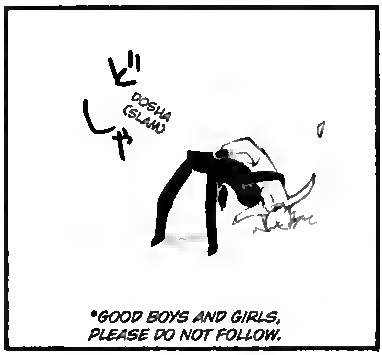
...I BET...
...THIS AIN'T GONNA GO AWAY AS EASILY AS YOU THINK.
BY THE WAY, A WORD OF ADVICE...
WHAT IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE MARK TSUKIMIYA BEARS AND THE BOOK OF DA'AT...
I SENSE THERE'S SOMETHING DEEPER AS WELL...
...AND WHAT POWER DOES THE MARK POSSESS!?
KA (GLEAM)

SLEEP WELL?
WILL THE CRUSADE END, AND THE PATH TO GODHOOD OPEN...
ZU
ZU
ZU

A FULL MOON HAS RISEN...!! WHAT WILL TSUKIMIYA'S FATE BE AS THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB!!?
THE SCENT OF DUBIOUS BLOOD, PURE OR OTHERWISE, HANGS IN THE AIR...
...ON THE FINAL NIGHT OF THE SEVENTH WEEK IT SHALL COME TO PASS...
AND...

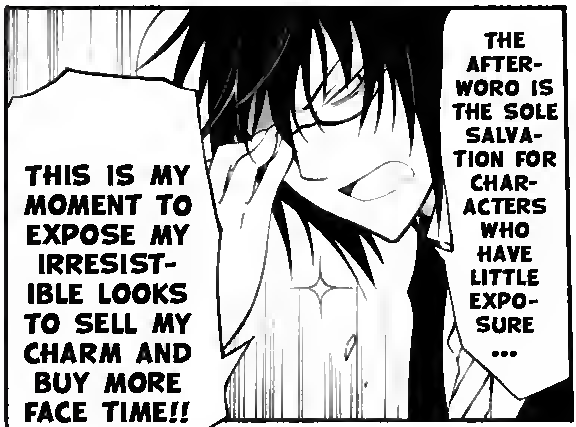
To be Continued in BLOODY CROSS Vol. 4!!

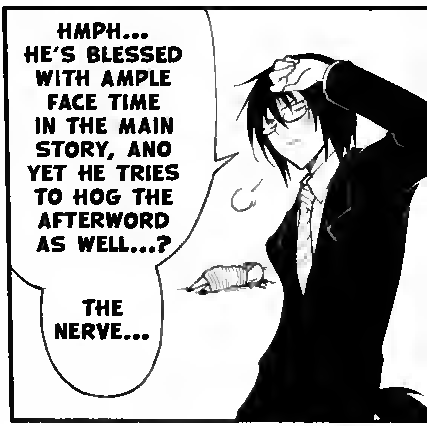

ALOHA!
AFTERWORD SCRIBBLES
NOW INCREASED TO FOUR PAGES!
THIS IS VOLUME 3 OF BLOODY CROSS, THE MANGA WITH A POTENTIALLY WORRYING LACK OF CHARACTER NAME RECOGNITION 'COS NOBODY EVER CALLS ANYBODY BY THEIR ACTUAL NAME!
IT'S ALWAYS "HALF-BREED," "PUREBLOOD," "DOG," "CAT," "FALLEN ANGEL," "HIM," "HER," "YOU," "HEY," ETC...AND STUFF LIKE THAT!

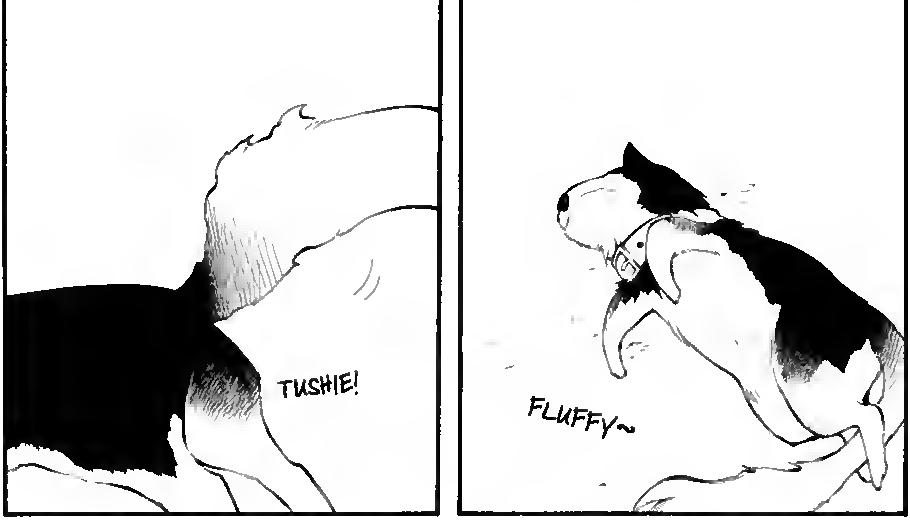

DOSHA (SLAM)
*GOOD BOYS AND GIRLS, PLEASE DO NOT FOLLOW.

GA (GRAB)

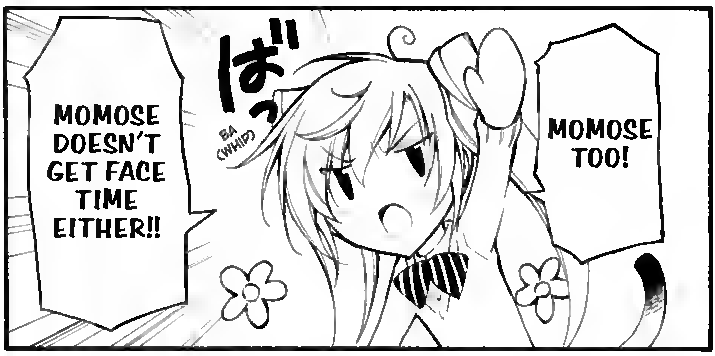
BUT I'M SAFE 'COS I REFER TO MYSELF AS "LORD TSUZUKI!!"


THIS IS MY MOMENT TO EXPOSE MY IRRESISTIBLE LOOKS TO SELL MY CHARM AND BUY MORE FACE TIME!!
THE AFTERWORD IS THE SOLE SALVATION FOR CHARACTERS WHO HAVE LITTLE EXPOSURE ...

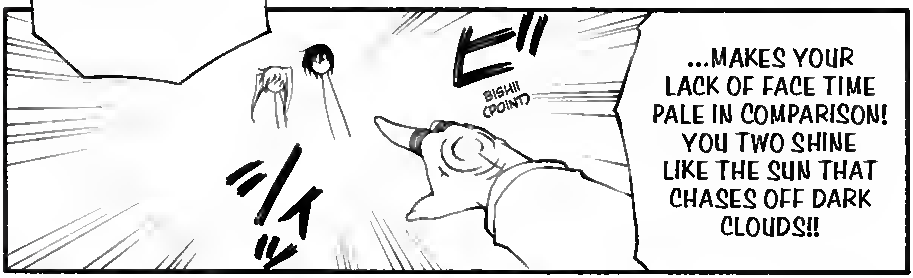

HMPH... HE'S BLESSED WITH AMPLE FACE TIME IN THE MAIN STORY, AND YET HE TRIES TO HOG THE AFTERWORD AS WELL...?
THE NERVE...

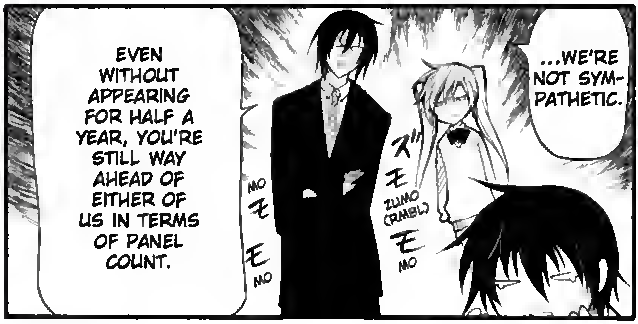


NOTE. "INU" MEANS "DOG" IN JAPANESE

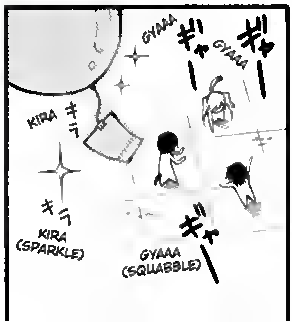


I'M NUMBER ONE WHEN IT COMES TO NO FACE TIME!
DOBAN (CRASH!)
I WAS OUT OF SIGHT FOR ALMOST A WHOLE VOLUME!
THIS ALMOST UNTHINKABLY IMPOSSIBLE TREATMENT FOR A MAIN CHARACTER...


BIGHH (POINT)
...MAKES YOUR LACK OF FACE TIME PALE IN COMPARISON! YOU TWO SHINE LIKE THE SUN THAT CHASES OFF DARK CLOUDS!!


EVEN WITHOUT APPEARING FOR HALF A YEAR, YOU'RE STILL WAY AHEAD OF EITHER OF US IN TERMS OF PANEL COUNT.
...WE'RE NOT SYM-PATHETIC.
ZUNO (CRABS)
MO
MO
MO

MY OWN WORDS ARE MAKING ME CRY...
...UNH...
ZUULIN (GLOOM)


GYAAA
GYAAA
KIRA
KIRA (SPARKLE)
GYAAA (SQUABBLE)

A QUASI-LEAD HAS NO BUSINESS PICKING FIGHTS WITH THE SUPPORTING CAST!
NO THANKS!
THEN SWITCH WITH ME.

USE THIS COUPON FOR INCREASED FACE TIME!
(LIMIT: ONE PERSON)
USE THIS COUPON FOR INCREASED FACE TIME!
(LIMIT: ONE PERSON)
KIRA
HEAVENLY BLESSING
ZAWA (SHUDDER)
PAKUN (CHOMP)
OUTTA MY WAAAY!
IT'S MIIIINE!
GIMMEEE!
PLEASE ~~EXPECT~~ PRAY FOR AN INCREASE IN THEIR FACE TIME.
WAAH! SPIT IT OUT!
DIE, STUPID KING!
YOU DON'T NEED ANY MORE FACE TIME!!!

BLOODY CROSS 3

Shiwo Komeyama

Translation: Mari Morimoto • Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

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First Yen Press ebook Edition: June 2014

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-37985-4

App ISBN: 978-0-316-37986-1